

Hafa Adai!

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E-Land to focus on PIC first

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The E-Land Group of Companies on Saipan said they would focus all of their resources first in getting Pacific Islands Club Saipan fully operational before addressing the situation at Coral Ocean Point Golf & Resort.

Both hotels are being operated by the Seoul-based Korean conglomerate, along with the Kensington Hotel in San Roque.

PIC and COP sustained heavy damage during Super Typhoon Yutu, causing them to close so their staff and other personnel could clean up all the debris and temporarily fix the facilities destroyed by the Category 5

tropical cyclone.

"COP was 100-percent damaged while PIC also had some damage. For COP, there was no building that wasn't left untouched. If you've seen it, it was really devastating." PIC Saipan general manager Gloria Cavanagh told *Saipan Tribune*.

"That's why we're focusing on getting PIC back up and running first

before we address the problems at COP," added Cavanagh, who is also the president of the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands.

In a separate interview, E-Land Group president Matthew Park said they are among the worst damaged companies on the island and that COP faces an uncertain future. "PIC

See E-LAND on Page 4



BACK TO SCHOOL

Despite the extensive damage to the roof of its walkway, Marianas High School played host Monday to students from other schools who resumed classes yesterday.

ERWIN ENCINARES

Petition against Atalig launched

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

A group of Rota voters and residents has launched an online petition that urges Rota Mayor Efraim M. Atalig

to disassociate himself from the office of the municipality after the latter was accused of corruption.

Pedro Dela Cruz started the petition, which aims to get 100 signatures from Rota voters. The petition,

so far, has 55 signatures.

Atalig is facing four charges: conspiracy, wire fraud, theft from program receiving federal funds, and one count of false statements. He pleaded not guilty at his arraignment last week at the U.S. District Court for

See PETITION on Page 4

US returns Bells of Balangiga



Philippine Air Force personnel unload three church bells seized by American troops as war trophies more than a century ago, as they arrive Tuesday, Dec. 11, 2018, in suburban Pasay city, southeast of Manila, Philippines.

AP

By JIM GOMEZ
ASSOCIATED PRESS

capital, closing a dark episode in the treaty allies' love-hate relationship.

See story on Page 15

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Three church bells seized by American troops as war trophies more than a century ago were returned to the Philippines on Tuesday.

U.S. defense officials and the American ambassador handed back the Bells of Balangiga to the Philippine defense chief in a solemn ceremony at an air force base in the



INSIDE



NATION

U.S. authorities arrest 32 people at a demonstration on the border with Mexico.

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WORLD

20 million people in Yemen are hungry—a staggering 70 percent of the population.

PAGE 16



GOOD

HOUSEKEEPING

Black Friday turned out to be a real shocker for me. It wasn't for store fighting, super discounts on large TV's or digital cameras but, instead, it was the rush to buy poinsettias.

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SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.



GOT A NEWS TIP?

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Local

Tudela request for psychiatric examination OK'd

The Superior Court has approved Jordan Tudela's motion to undergo psychiatric examination. Tudela is relying upon the defense of insanity at the time he allegedly sexually assaulted an 11-year-old girl.

Last Dec. 6, Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio ordered that a psychiatric examination be performed on Tudela by Dr. Martin Blinder, stemming from Tudela's notice that he intends to rely upon the defense of insanity.

Tudela is represented by Office of the Public Defender's Jean Pierre Nogues.

Blinder will serve as an expert witness during Tudela's hearings. He is tasked to evaluate the defendant and prepare a report.

According to Tudela's motion that was filed through his counsel, a psychiatrist is needed to determine whether Tudela was suffering from a mental illness at the time of the offense.

"Whenever a plea of not guilty by reason of mental ill-

ness, disease, or defect is entered or notice is given pursuant to the Commonwealth Rule of Criminal Procedure, the court shall appoint at least one qualified psychiatrist or other mental health professional to examine the defendant and report upon his mental condition," states Tudela's motion.

Blinder was given until Jan. 25, 2019, to file a report. Tudela's review hearing concerning his competence is scheduled for Feb. 5, 2019.

Since Tudela has been

found indigent, the government will pay for the psychiatrist. The court estimates that \$1,500 will be paid to Blinder for his services.

The Office of the Attorney General charged 36-year-old Tudela with sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree and disturbing the peace. He was allegedly caught sexually assaulting an 11-year-old girl in Chalan Kanoa and had attempted to jump off a three-story building.

A bail of \$100,000 was imposed on Tudela who remains

in the custody of the Department of Corrections because he could not post bail.

According to court information, Tudela's girlfriend and the alleged eyewitness of the assault told police that she caught Tudela sexually molesting the 11-year-old girl in their residence in Chalan Kanoa last Saturday afternoon.

The eyewitness told police that she panicked and ran out of the room and immediately called for police assistance. Tudela reportedly left the house prior to the arrival of police officers.

The 11-year-old victim later allegedly told police that Tudela had threatened to kill

her family if she reports what he did to her.

Tudela allegedly begged his girlfriend not to report the matter to authorities, and that she reported the incident nonetheless, prompting him to climb atop a three-story building in Chalan Kanoa and threaten to jump off.

For over three hours, responding police officers and first responders urged him to get off the edge of the building; the incident caused massive traffic in the area. He was later arrested at the building site.

Tudela was taken to the Commonwealth Health Center where was admitted and later released on Dec. 3. (Kimberly A. Bautista)

JKPL waives late fees, damage fees

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library would be waiving late and damage fees for material affected by Super Typhoon Yutu. The library is now on island power starting yesterday, resulting in changes to its operation hours starting today.

Late fees are waived for all library material due on days that the library was closed because of Yutu.

"For patrons who have library materials that were damaged during Super Typhoon Yutu they must provide a list of all materials and must sign

an affidavit of damage in order to be free of fines," JKPL technical services librarian Beth Demapan told *Saipan Tribune*, adding that a library card number and name or book barcode must be provided with the affidavit of damage.

Demapan noted that the library became operational last Tuesday, Dec. 4, 2018.

It was connected to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. lines yesterday.

As of today, temporary hours of library operations start from 9am to 5pm, from

Tuesday to Friday. The library is also open from 9am to 3:30pm on Saturdays.

"With our community needs at the forefront, the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library has worked hard to ensure that access to services is available," Demapan said, adding that the community is welcome to avail of their free computer services in filing for disaster assistance benefits such as those offered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

"We have a clean facility with air-conditioning and restrooms available. ...We have friendly staff on hand to assist and search

for [a] book," she said. "We ask the community for your understanding and cooperation as we undergo repairs."

She gave thanks to the Department of Corrections for exterior cleanup; Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC for volunteers and assistance with indoor and outdoor cleanup; Northern Marianas Humanities Council's CNMI Motherhead/Fatherhead program; the Department of Fish and Wildlife; Saipan Mayor's Office; Department of Public Works; Governor's Office; and many more. (Erwin Encinares)

PCC, PPUC sign MOU on solar energy

The Palau Public Utilities Corp. and the Palau Community College signed a memorandum of understanding last Dec. 10 for a grid-connected solar photovoltaic system.

Present to witness and sign this partnership was PPUC board chair and acting chief executive officer Gregorio Decherong, PCC board of trustees chair Masa-Aki Emesiochl, and PCC president Dr. Patrick U. Tellei.

The purpose of the system is to provide 100 kWp grid-

connected photovoltaic generation system to defray the cost of fossil fuel consumption imported to Palau, to promote Paris Agreement on Reduction of Green House emission, and to reduce PCC energy consumption costs.

This system will be installed on the roof of the PCC cafeteria, composed of 304 solar panels, inverters, and electrical room. It will also be used as training module for PCC students and PPUC technicians. (PR)

Happy Holidays

from Aqua Resort Club

Sunset Beach
BBQ

Costa
Terrace Restaurant

KEVIN'S
The Prime Rib
& Seafood

Christmas Eve Sunset BBQ Dinner Show

December 24, 2018
6:00pm - 9:00pm

Alana'ia Polynesian
Dance Dinner Show
Menu Options Vary



AQUA RESORT CLUB
Saipan

Special Christmas Eve Dinner Buffet

December 24, 2018
6:00pm - 9:00pm
\$42.00/adult \$21.00/child
*\$38.00/adult *\$19.00/child

Special Christmas Day Champagne Brunch

December 25, 2018
11:00am - 2:00pm
\$42.00/adult \$21.00/child
*\$38.00/adult *\$19.00/child

Christmas Eve Special Set Menu

December 24, 2018
6:00pm - 10:00pm
Set A - \$80.00 /adult
Set B - \$70.00 /adult

Christmas Day Special Set Menu

December 25, 2018
6:00pm - 10:00pm
Set A \$80.00 /adult
Set B \$70.00 /adult

Aqua Resort Club welcomes you to celebrate the holidays with us this year with various delicious options at Costa Terrace Restaurant's Buffet, Kevin's - The Prime Rib & Seafood's Fine Dining, or our Sunset Beach BBQ Dinner Show!

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Judge orders deposition of ex-Hillbroom lawyer in Guam

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona ordered yesterday that the deposition of a former lawyer of Junior Larry Hillbroom—who now lives in Vietnam—will be in Guam.

Deposition refers to the taking of testimony of a witness outside of court.

In granting Hillbroom's request to require the deposition of Barry J. Israel, Manglona required Hillbroom to pay for Israel's travel.

At the hearing yesterday, Manglona asked Theodore Frank, counsel for Israel, if he is aware of any actual depo-

sition similarly conducted in Vietnam.

According to the minutes of the hearing, Frank stated he did not do the research and that it was not their burden to find out what could be done in Vietnam.

Nelson Werner, one of three counsels for Hillbroom, clarified that if it was the court's position that their client should pay for the cost of Israel's appearance for his deposition.

He said this offer was made to Israel back in September 2017 and was rejected. Werner said they could agree to pay reasonable costs.

Theodore Frank, one of two counsels for Israel, asked for an update on the status of Hillbroom's criminal case in Palau.

Rachel Demitruk, another counsel for Hillbroom, disclosed that their client is currently in prison in Palau and they are looking at off-island facilities for his drug treatment.

On further court hearings, Demitruk said the defense presented this issue to the Attorney General in Palau for review and they had asked the Palau Court to set the date to hear the matter.

Demitruk added that it is in the AG's hands now.

Werner said Hillbroom will definitely be going to a treatment program and he will be able to complete the program in eight months.

At yesterday's hearing, all parties, except Hillbroom's

other counsel, Mark Hanson, appeared by telephone.

Hillbroom is suing his former lawyers, Israel and David J. Lujan, for alleged legal malpractice.

Hillbroom then filed a motion to compel Israel to be deposed on Saipan or Guam. But Israel said he is willing to have his deposition taken in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. He said this will avoid the difficulties and undue expenses of travel and allow him to minimize the

negative impact on his businesses in Vietnam.

Frank said if the court orders Israel to travel to appear for deposition outside Vietnam, the court should order Hillbroom to pay for Israel's travel costs of \$4,232 or more.

Hillbroom is suing Israel and Lujan for allegedly conspiring with a former trustee to inflate the attorney's contingency fee when the fortune of the late business tycoon and DHL co-founder Larry Lee

Hillblom was still undergoing probate proceedings in Superior Court.

Hillbroom is one of the four DNA-proven children of Hillbroom. His name is spelled differently from Hillblom.

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CUC response to comments on its water

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. was informed early Tuesday morning, Dec. 11, 2018, of a water issue involving trace amounts of total coliform contamination at the Great Harvest Bread Co. in Chalan Kanoa.

The company has assigned blame to CUC's water supply as the source and cause of the contamination. Tests were performed on Dec. 6, 2018, by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in conjunction with the Bureau of Environmental Health and Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality at the bread company who found two results: 1) CUC water supply was clear; and 2) the water from

their onsite reverse osmosis system that feeds the sink in the kitchen area had trace amounts of total coliform. There is also a private water tank onsite. Once CUC water enters a property owner's private tank, the water is no longer controlled or protected by CUC's residual chlorine level that is maintained while being transmitted by pipeline to a final user. As a result, CUC assumes that the source of the contamination was from the on-site RO source. It was not CUC's water supply.

It is imperative that customers of CUC not be harmed by the inadvertent notice offered by a business customer that has not verified and tested the

source of the possible contamination problem. CUC water is safe and does not carry any form of contamination. We test every day around the island as required by USEPA and BECQ who regulate our system and requires that findings be reported immediately and regularly. CUC holds its obligation to its customers as its highest priority and will continue to do so every day for the public's protection.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (<https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/>). (PR)



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FREE CONCERT

STAFF SGT. JAMES KENNEDY BENJAMIN

Saipan Pacific Winds Concert Band music conductor Atsuko Eck, left standing, directs U.S. Army soldiers with the 721st Guam Army National Guard Band and members of the SPWCB during a performance at the American Memorial Park amphitheater on Saipan last Dec. 9, 2018. The concert was held as a way of saying "thank you" to the community for their support to the military during Super Typhoon Yutu relief efforts.

Supreme Court affirms Bashar's marriage fraud conviction

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
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REPORTER

The NMI Supreme Court affirmed last Dec. 5 Mohammad A. Bashar's conviction for marriage fraud.

Back in July 2016, Bashar sought the Supreme Court's review after the trial court denied Bashar's request to set aside his plea and vacate his

conviction and sentence and order denying Bashar's request for reconsideration.

The Commonwealth penalty for marriage fraud is up to five years imprisonment, a \$2,000 fine, or both.

Because a federal conviction for marriage fraud carries a penalty of up to five years imprisonment, a \$250,000 fine, or both, while the Com-

monwealth penalty for marriage fraud was up to five years imprisonment, a \$2,000 fine, or both, the Supreme Court decided that applying federal law to Bashar would subject him to a more severe punishment. As such, applying federal law to Bashar's prosecution would have an impermissible retroactive effect.

In reviewing Bashar's case,

the Supreme Court determined that because Bashar's marriage fraud prosecution was a proceeding instituted under prior law, Public Law 17-1 would operate to preserve Bashar's conviction so long as Commonwealth law remained applicable to his prosecution after Nov. 28, 2009.

The court, however, determined that Congress had

explicitly expressed intent to preempt local law on the date of the Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008 enactment. As a result, the high court turned to the doctrine of retroactivity to determine whether the CNRA should apply to Bashar's marriage—an act that occurred prior to its enactment.

Bashar has lived in the Commonwealth since 1997, marrying in March of 2009. Bashar was charged with marriage fraud later in March of 2009 after he allegedly got married and filed for a divorce on the same day; he pleaded no contest to the charge in February of 2011. His conviction made him subject to removal.

Around this time, control

over immigration law shifted from local to federal government. Congress enacted the CNRA, prescribing the application of federal immigration law to the Commonwealth. The CNRA became effective in the Commonwealth on Nov. 28, 2009. In response to the federal government's assumption of immigration responsibilities, the Commonwealth enacted Public Law 17-1. Applying retroactively to Nov. 28, 2009, the law repealed many of the Commonwealth's statutes dealing with immigration functions, including the marriage fraud statute. Public Law 17-1 contained a savings clause, which governed, in part, proceedings instituted under prior law.

2 more siblings dragged into judge wife's defamation suit

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Bank of Hawaii wants to include as co-defendants the two siblings of the wife of Superior Court Presiding Judge Roberto C. Naraja in connection with a defamation lawsuit against the bank.

BOH, through counsel Sean Frink, asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI last Monday to allow it to file a first amended answer, counterclaim and third-party complaint to the defamation suit filed by Judge Naraja's wife, Frances Deleon Guerrero Naraja.

Frink said they want to include as third-party defendants Joaquin V. Deleon Guerrero and Margarita Deleon Guerrero Santos, who are siblings of Mrs. Naraja.

Frink said in BOH's filing of its answer, crossclaim and third-party complaint last Sept. 28 to Mrs. Naraja's lawsuit, they made it clear

that it was simultaneously pursuing permission from the U.S. District Court for the NMI's bankruptcy court to add Mr. Deleon Guerrero as an additional third-party defendant.

Frink said while pursuing such permission from the bankruptcy court, BOH also became aware of Mrs. Santos' potential claim to the primary subject of the entire lawsuit—the \$290,000 on deposit in the CNMI Superior Court.

Frink said that last Thursday, the bankruptcy court lifted the stay and authorized BOH to sue Mr. Deleon Guerrero in this case.

The lawyer said under the law, BOH was precluded from bringing a claim against Mr. Deleon Guerrero due to the automatic stay imposed that prohibits such action without first having obtained permission from the bankruptcy court.

He said BOH filed this mo-

tion immediately after receiving the bankruptcy court's authorization.

The Commonwealth Development Authority recently disclosed that it may have an interest in the \$290,000.

CDA, through counsel Charity R. Hodson, has also agreed with BOH that CDA is owed more than \$400,000 by Mr. Deleon Guerrero.

In response to BOH's counterclaim, Hodson said CDA pursued payment of \$400,000 in the Superior Court, causing the court to issue multiple writs of attachment.

Hodson said some of the writs were delivered to BOH, causing the bank to take action in compliance with such writs.

Mrs. Naraja is suing BOH for allegedly refusing to honor her eight cashier's checks in the total amount of \$290,000 that she had purchased in 2016, but then telling all the other banks on Saipan that she had improperly secured the

cashier's checks.

Aside from defamation, Mrs. Naraja, through counsel William M. Fitzgerald, is also suing BOH for allegedly dishonoring the cashier's checks and conversion.

Mrs. Naraja seeks for the return of \$290,000.

BOH filed a counterclaim against Mrs. Naraja and third-party claims against CDA, Gloria Deleon Guerrero Sablan, and the Lorenzo Deleon Guerrero Family Trust.

Sablan is Mrs. Naraja's sister.

According to Frink, the bank simply seeks to join all of the potentially interested parties in one action so that their rights and responsibilities to the \$290,000 can be determined.

Frink said Joaquin Deleon Guerrero and his wife declared bankruptcy, claiming that the true owner of the \$290,000 is and was the Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero Family Trust.

JKPL, SCS to hold uke concert tomorrow

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library and the Saipan Community School would be holding a ukulele concert tomorrow at the library as part of the library's 27th anniversary celebration.

The concert, according to JKPL technical services librarian Beth Demapan, would take place from 10:30am to 11am.

The event is free and open to the public.

"Join us on Thursday, Dec. 13, at 10:30am to enjoy a Christmas Ukulele Concert, performed by the Saipan Community School's Junior High students," a social media

post from the library said.

Since the Library Act of 1990, or Public Law 7-18, was enacted, the JKPL has been operating in the CNMI. It is also known as the CNMI's State Library.

JKPL resumed operations last Dec. 4, 2018, since the destruction of Super Typhoon Yutu on Oct. 24 and 25.

The library also announced yesterday that they are now connected to the island power.

As of today, the JKPL would be open from Tuesdays to Fridays from 9am to 5pm and Saturdays from 9am to 3:30pm. **(Erwin Encinares)**



ROLLBACK

The Mobil Oil Marianas gas station along Beach Road in Garapan. Mobil and Shell rolled back their gas prices again last week—their second price rollback since Super Typhoon Yutu hit the Commonwealth in late October.

KIMBERLY BAUTISTA

E-LAND

From Page 1

will re-open but I'm not sure about COP because of too much damage. It will take some time."

PIC returns

Park said that they are looking to finish the repairs at PIC before the year ends. "If you go to PIC right now, it's a mess but I think we can finish our rebuilding

by the end of December. We are now fixing the rooftop, rooms, and the swimming pools."

This was seconded by Cavanagh, who added that they are almost done clearing the rubble and other typhoon-related debris. "If you go in, it's a bunch of rubble. The rubble is good since that means the demolition is done. And now we're rebuilding everything. The pools should be finished within this week. ... Hopefully, by the end of the

year or the beginning of the year, we will be 100 percent functional."

She said that PIC has already received its first guests in the early hours of Nov. 21. "We will start filling some of the pools. The Magellan and the lobby should also be finished by the 17th."

"The only thing that is not going to open is the Point Break [facility]. We are also going to open with less rooms because we have about 80 that were damaged. However,

we have prepped some of the rooms by replacing some of the floorings. Once all of the [materials] come in on [Dec.] 19, we will be able to fix that really soon."

Yutu left a massive trail of destruction that could reach millions of dollars when it passed the Caroline Islands between the Federated States of Micronesia and Palau, Saipan, Tinian, the Philippines, and southern China—Guangdong, Guangxi, Hainan, Hong Kong, and Macau.

PETITION

From Page 1

the Northern Mariana Islands.

Dela Cruz's petition is urging Atalig to remove himself from the daily official activities of the Office of the Mayor pending the verdict of the District Court and the CNMI Superior Court, where he faces an almost similar charge related to a Guam political party rally.

Atalig has pleaded not guilty in federal court to all of the charges that he and his girlfriend, Evelyn Atalig, used CNMI government funds for their trips to California, Guam, Palau, and Saipan.

"We, the undersigned registered voters and legal residents of Rota, do hereby petition Mayor Atalig to disassociate himself from the Office of the Mayor of the municipality of Rota immediately," reads the online petition.

The petition states that Atalig, being the Rota mayor, remains influential to all resident department directors under his office despite his pending court hearings. It also stated that Atalig traveled to Guam, allegedly using

taxpayers' money, to check the Guam DRMO federal facility to check and purchase military surplus equipment to be used by the municipality. Instead, he purportedly attended a political rally.

"There was no reservation or appointment made for this visit and thus when the mayor's party arrived at the site, they were refused by the DRMO official," stated the petition.

It added that Atalig allegedly used government funds in chartering a private airline service to Guam and back to Rota for his group for the purpose of having a political party there. "The [Guam trip] was a political party of the Rota [GOP], which Atalig is a candidate seeking for re-election."

Despite the charges against him at federal court and Superior Court, Atalig managed to win in last month's election, garnering 576 votes. Julie Marie O. Manglona came second with 487 votes, followed by Senate vice president Steve K. Mesngon (345), Crispin M. Ogo (135), and Richard E. Taisacan (61).

If Atalig is convicted, Manglona could become the next Rota mayor.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS**Kagman PTSA meeting set**

The Kagman cluster of schools will be having a PTSA meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 18, 2018, at 5:30pm in the Kagman Elementary School cafeteria. All parents and guardians are encouraged to attend this meeting. Call the school at 237-3921, 664-4100, or 664-3911 if you have any questions or concerns. (PR)

Kumisión to host second CHamoru orthography training

HAGÁTNA, Guam—The second training session on the CHamoru language and the adopted Guam CHamoru orthography will be held at the Holiday Resort and Spa Guam today, Dec. 12, from 8am to 5pm. All participants who were registered and attended the first session on Sept. 28 are reminded to return for this second session.

The third and final session will be scheduled in January 2019. Attendance at this Second CHamoru language training in orthography, grammar, and translation processes is a requirement for the certificate of completion as a CHamoru Language Liaison.

Participants must bring their laptop computers, their issued Guam CHamoru Orthography booklets, and their office samples of signage, short phrases or simple directions to be completed at this session.

Email the Commission on the CHamoru Language and the Teaching of the History and Culture of the Indigenous People of Guam at kumision-chamoru@gmail.com for any questions. (PR)

Public comment period continues for draft INRMP, environmental assessment

ASAN, Guam—Joint Region Marianas reminds the community of the 30-day public comment period concluding Dec. 13, for the draft 2018 Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan and environmental assessment.

In keeping with its environmental stewardship, the Navy is updating the current 2013 INRMP to ensure that the military in the region continues to meet its vital mission, while managing, protecting and enhancing the health of our natural resources and ecosystem.

The new 2018 INRMP proposes to continue some existing projects from the 2013 document and introduces new projects appropriate for managing natural resources in evolving environmental conditions and challenges.

Those interested in learning about the Navy's plans to protect and safeguard natural resources in Guam and the CNMI are encouraged to visit

the website at www.jrminrmp.com and download a copy of

the document, or view a hard copy at the Nieves Flores Memorial Library in Hagatna and the Dededo Library.

Public comments should be submitted no later than Dec. 13

by email at: w-gu-navfac-ev2-gs@fe.navy.mil or by mail. (PR)

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HRV EX 2WD	JM702620	LUNAR SILVER	\$3,000
PILOT EX 2WD	JB004061	LUNAR SILVER	\$4,000
HRV EX 2WD	HM714229	CRYSTAL BLACK	\$4,000

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TRANSIT 350 LR	JKA83076	OXFORD WHITE	\$4,000
TRANSIT 350 HD	JKA83060	INGOT SILVER	\$5,000
TRANSIT 150 XL LR	JKA83059	OXFORD WHITE	\$4,000
EXPLORER LIMITED 4WD	JGC88943	PLAT DUNE TRICO	\$5,000

NISSAN	STOCK #	COLOR	DISCOUNT
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Typhoon connects distant family members

Natural disasters such as earthquakes, tsunamis, and super typhoons can sometimes separate families from each other. In the case of Super Typhoon Yutu, a Category 5 storm that hit the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in late October 2018 and was recorded as the strongest storm to ever hit U.S. soil since the 1930s, it brought two family members together.

Lt. Col. Richard Barcinas, assigned to the 9th Mission Support Command, U.S. Army Reserve, flew from

Guam to Saipan and was staged in the early hours before Super Typhoon Yutu made landfall in the CNMI.

As an emergency preparedness liaison officer for 9th MSC, he was assigned to Task Force-West where he would carry out his EPLO duties for the duration of the response and recovery efforts.

Almost two months later, while conducting Defense Support of Civil Authorities on Saipan, he was connected with a distant relative.

"I found out from one of our soldiers that I had a relative here," said Barcinas, a native of Guam. "We were able to connect and that was when we learned how we are related."

Ernestina Agulto, a first-grade teacher at Oleai Elementary School, Saipan, and Barcinas learned more about their ancestry dating back three generations.

Barcinas, also a teacher for a Guam middle school, said their great-grandparents are siblings.

"My great-grandfather and her great-grandmother both came from Guam to Saipan," Barcinas said.

The two cousins decided to do a "read aloud" for first-grade students at OES.

Four first-grade teachers gathered their students in the first period of school to listen to Barcinas talk about his military career and his experience of supporting Yutu recovery efforts. Afterward, Barcinas read a book called *'Slowly, slowly, slowly' said the sloth*

by Eric Carle.

Barcinas stressed to the student the importance of slowing down sometimes in life.

"Sometimes doing things slowly allows us to reconnect with life," Barcinas said. "For instance this storm. After the storm, life slowed for many," highlighting no power, phones, or internet. "It was in that moment that we turned to one another...helped each other."

The students and teachers enjoyed the "read aloud" from Barcinas.

"It was great having Richard come and read to our stu-

dents," Agulto said. "Having this situation on our island was kind of depressing," referring to students missing more than one month of school. "Him [Barcinas] reading a story helped brighten up their day."

His passion for learning and education prompted him to take it a step further than to just read to the students. Barcinas donated several children's books for the class.

"We should all slow down and appreciate the finer things in life ...," Barcinas said, "each other." (Staff Sgt. James Kennedy Benjamin)



Oleai Elementary School first-grade teacher Ernestina Agulto, left, receives donated books on Dec. 11, 2018, from U.S. Army Lt. Col. Richard Barcinas, right, a middle school teacher in Guam and a soldier with the 9th Mission Support Command, U.S. Army Reserve, currently assigned to Task Force-West, at OES on Saipan. Through Super Typhoon Yutu recovery efforts, Agulto and Barcinas discovered their family relationship dating back three generations, when Agulto's great grandmother and Barcinas' great grandfather, both siblings came from Guam to Saipan.

U.S. ARMY STAFF SGT. JAMES KENNEDY BENJAMIN

IN SETTLING FORMER MANAGER'S SUIT

XTRA Airways, officials finalize terms of deal

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_deltorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Florida-based XTRA Airways Inc. and its officials have finalized the terms of an agreement that settles a lawsuit filed against them by a former manager for the airline's Asian operations for allegedly terminating him without cause a few months after he was hired for the Saipan office in 2017.

In a joint status report, plaintiff Thomas L. Nolte and defendant TEM Enterprises, which does business as Xtra Airways, through their respective counsels, informed the U.S. District Court for the NMI Monday that their final settlement agreement encompasses all issues and all parties, including attorney's fees and costs.

Colin M. Thompson is counsel for Nolte, while lawyers Catherine J. Cachero and Sean E. Frink are counsel for TEM Enterprises.

The lawyers told the court that the parties expect to file a joint stipulation of voluntary dismissal of Nolte's complaint on or before Dec. 31, 2018.

The parties submitted their notice Monday after U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona granted their request last Nov. 8 to give them 30 days to finalize their settlement agreement and file a stipulation of voluntary dismissal of the lawsuit.

In the original complaint, Nolte sued XTRA Airways Inc. and five unnamed co-defendants for breach of written and oral contracts, and fraud. He asked the court to hold the defendants liable to pay him lost wages, damages, attorney's fees, and court costs.

In his amended complaint, Nolte sued Tem Enterprises, which owns XTRA Airways, XTRA Airways chief operations officer Andrew D. Lotter, and XTRA Airways chief executive officer Frank J. Visconti for fraud, and only against XTRA Airways for breach of contract.

Nolte asked the court to hold the defendants liable to compensate him for lost earnings, damages, and court costs. He demanded a jury trial.

XTRA Airways' flights from China to Saipan were cancelled starting Nov. 10, 2017, three months after it opened flights from Nanjing to Saipan.

Thompson alleged in the complaint that XTRA Airways' true goal in hiring Nolte was to provide a short-term boost to XTRA Airways' net value by demonstrating to prospective buyers that XTRA Airways had an existing China-Saipan route and a manager (Nolte) to operate the route. The defendants denied the allegations.

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MVA joins China travel mart

The Marianas Visitors Authority joined Brighten Travel, Century Tours, SPITS, Qulv, Zhejiang New World, and TDI in participating in the China International Tourism Mart in Shanghai last Nov 16-18.

Since it was first held in 2001, China International Tourism Mart is held annually in Shanghai or Kunming, and it has grown into the largest professional travel trade fair in Asia, attracting the attention of the travel industry from all over the world.

The MVA joined 1,109 buyers and 2,245 exhibitors at the three-day event, which attracted 31,500 industry visitors and 46,720 members of the public.

MVA board chair Mar-

ian Aldan-Pierce led the MVA delegation at Shanghai to meet with a wide range of travel partners in mainland China and assure them of the destination's speedy recovery following Super Typhoon Yutu and readiness to accept visitors.

"Overall, CITM was an excellent opportunity to meet personally with tourism industry reps and members of the traveling public to let them know the Marianas is still beautiful, exciting, and back in business following Yutu," said MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. "We are very encouraged to see Chinese travelers embrace this message, as evidenced by the packed flights that have all

resumed from major cities in the country. We want to recognize our partners from Hong Kong and mainland China for being the first international flights to resume service after Yutu. The source market of China is still strong for the Marianas."

Miss Marianas Celine Cabrera joined the MVA at their promotional booth.

Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou, Hangzhou, and Hong Kong have non-stop flights to Saipan, and nearly 20 cities across the country have opened transit flights that connect through these cities to the Marianas. The Marianas is the only American territory offering Chinese tourists visa-free entry. (MVA)



MVA

The Marianas Visitors Authority promotes Saipan, Tinian, and Rota at the China International Travel Mart in Shanghai on Nov.16-18, 2018.

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Kilili: DHS proposal undermines nutrition benefits for kids, families

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) joined Democrats in the House Committee on Education and the Workforce yesterday in opposing the Department of Homeland Security's proposed changes to the definition of "public charge."

The new proposal would allow DHS to deny status to im-

migrants based on their use of certain public benefits. Candidates for permanent residency (or green cards) could be rejected if they, and in some cases their family members, are found to have received federal assistance such as food stamps, housing subsidy, Medicaid, or Women, Infants, and Children benefits.

In a letter to Homeland

Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen, Sablan and 16 of his colleagues noted that the proposed changes would force many non-U.S. citizen families to choose between providing healthy food for their children and protecting their immigration status.

"When children lack the necessary resources for con-

sistent access to healthy food, they are at risk for malnutrition and other adverse health, educational, and developmental consequences," the Education and the Workforce Committee Democrats wrote. "The future economic success and health of our nation's children relies on protecting and strengthening access to the programs and

supports that can enable them to succeed."

In their letter, the House members warned that the rule not only threatens many children's access to needed benefits at home, but also threatens their access to benefits in their schools, including free or reduced lunch. The rule also makes it more difficult

for schools to utilize the community eligibility provision, which streamlines the process for allowing all children in high-poverty schools and communities to receive free meals.

In 2017, nearly 3 million U.S. households were unable to provide adequate, nutritious food for their children during the year. **(PR)**

DOMINO'S DONATION

Domino's Pizza Guam has donated \$5,000 to the Ayuda Foundation for use in the foundation's ongoing relief drive for the victims of Super Typhoon Yutu in the CNMI. Its eventual goal is to raise \$10,000 for the CNMI. From left, Domino's senior graphics designer Chloe Weilbacher; Ayuda Foundation board members Sen. James V. Espaldon and Walden Weilbacher; Ayuda Foundation executive director Carlotta Leon Guerrero; Ayuda Foundation board member and former senator Frank Blas Jr.; Domino's chief financial officer Julio Dalangin; Domino's marketing director Dane Taitano; Domino's operations manager Gold Mar R. Cura; and Domino's Tamuning employees Emeliza Nacar and Billy Ballesteros.

DOMINO'S



LIBRARY ON JAPAN STUDIES

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Consular Office of Japan on Saipan will open a "Library on Japan Studies" in the waiting room of the consulate on Dec. 10. The library has more than 60 books on Japan that are published in English, covering various fields such as history, culture, religion, economy, business, politics, foreign policy, etc. The public is welcome to visit the library and borrow any books.



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC-RFP-19-001

Repair of CUC Power Plant No. 2 Building Structure, Lower Base, Saipan, CNMI

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms for the Repair of CUC Power Plant No. 2 Building Structure, Saipan, Lower Base, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The work includes replacement of various building elements which were damaged due to the Typhoon Soudelor and also additional work required to strengthen the facility for improving its integrity with a view of withstanding elements of nature. CUC has performed partial work under an ongoing contract with another contractor.

This project is funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from the above mentioned funding agencies.

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **150 calendar days** from the date of issuance of the Notice to Proceed.

Prospective Proposers must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$150.00 for one RFP package set.

A Pre-proposal Conference will be scheduled on **December 18, 2018 at 10:00 am (ChST)**, at the power plant conference room, followed by a site visit. All attendees are required to arrive with appropriate Personal Protection Equipment (PPE). **The attendance in the conference and site visit is mandatory to ensure that the parties are fully familiar with the existing site conditions.**

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "**CUC-RFP-19-001 - Repair of CUC Power Plant No. 2 Building Structure, Saipan, Lower Base, CNMI**", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on January 4, 2019**. Late submissions and conditional Proposals will not be considered. Proposal shall be submitted on the provided Submission Forms. Proposers are required to complete all Proposal Forms. Proposers may supplement the form as appropriate. Proposals will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 90 days after submission.

A Proposal Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total Proposal price must accompany the Proposals. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or Proposal bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total Proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful Proposers. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Proposers are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

Discussions may be conducted with responsive offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

Proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Proposer due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Proposers are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered Prospective Proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on December 19, 2018** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email - manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Venugopal Prabhakara, CUC Project Manager - via email venugopal.prabhakara@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC Senior Purchasing Assistant via email christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all Proposals and waive any imperfection in the Proposal in the best interest of the government. All Proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY CAMACHO
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator



Office of the Public Auditor

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
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PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ALL 2018 ELECTION CANDIDATES and POLITICAL PARTIES

According to 1 CMC § 6424, all certified candidates must file a detailed "Campaign Statement of Account". This itemized financial statement, prepared with the advice and co-signature of the candidate's treasurer, must show the specific source(s), name(s) of contributor(s), and amount(s) of contributions and expenses. The Office of the Public Auditor (OPA) is mandated by the Act to administer the filing of such Statements. Pursuant to the Act, failure to file a complete, signed, dated and verified Statement by January 2, 2019, shall subject you to a fine of up to \$100 per day for each date the Statement is late.

The "Campaign Statement of Account form, suggested reports, and supporting schedules are available on Commonwealth Election Commission's website at www.votecnmi.gov.mp. Please note that filing of a "Campaign Statement of Account" form is mandatory.

The Act also requires that the Statement be verified under oath by the candidate/political party and the candidate's/political party's treasurer. Our office will provide free notary service to those who wish to avail themselves of this service. (Proper identification bearing both the photo and signature of the candidate and treasurer must be provided).

Notary Service Schedule:

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Monday through Friday (Except 12/17/18 & 12/19/18)
8:00am to 4:30pm

Rota: Northern Marianas College
Monday, December 17, 2018 – 9:00am to 3:00pm

Tinian: Department of Commerce
Wednesday, December 19, 2018 – 9:00am to 3:00pm

Beach volleyball raises \$885 for Red Cross

The "Hope for Tomorrow" Yutu Relief Youth Beach Volleyball Tournament FUNdraiser was able to raise \$885 for the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter.

The event was sponsored by the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, Northern Mariana Is-

From left, Laurie Peterka, president, NMI Volleyball Association; John Hirsch, executive director, American Red Cross-NMI Chapter; Wendi Herring, general manager, Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Hawaii importing invasive snakes to train dogs to find them

KAILUA-KONA, Hawaii (AP)—The Hawaii Department of Agriculture is importing four brown tree snakes to be used to train dogs to detect the dangerously invasive species and hopefully prevent the snakes from establishing themselves in the islands.

Jonathan Ho, acting manager of the department's plant quarantine branch, said the Hawaii Board of Agriculture approved a request for the sterile, male snakes to be used in the dog detection program, West Hawaii Today reported Monday.

"The primary focus is for the brown tree snakes," Ho

said at a meeting in Honolulu last week. "However, Hawaii has no species of snakes and the dogs do generalize, so any type of snake we would take action upon."

The snakes will be used to train four Jack Russell terriers and terrier mixes to seek out the snakes that could enter Hawaii by plane, ship or cargo carrier.

Brown tree snakes invaded Guam and nearly wiped out the island's bird species, Ho said. Hawaii has several species of protected and endangered birds.

Hawaii has no native snakes and the last time a snake was

found in the state was in 1998, said Ho. The U.S. Department of Agriculture Wildlife Services conducts checks to clear transport vessels and containers of invasive species before coming to Hawaii and the state conducts additional inspections upon arrival.

The detection program began in the 1990s but was discontinued in 2009. The Department of Agriculture reinstated the program in 2016.

Beyond the precautions of all four snakes being male and sterilized, officials will also surgically implant radio transmitters in the reptiles before their arrival in Hawaii.

lands Volleyball Association, Triple J, SeaTouch, Herman's Bakery, and MyPros.

"We are so thankful to all the sponsors...and the 104 students who participated in the beach volleyball tournament to raise \$885 for Saipan residents suffering in the aftermath of Super Typhoon Yutu,"

said ARC executive director John Hirsch.

The students also donated three boxes full of items.

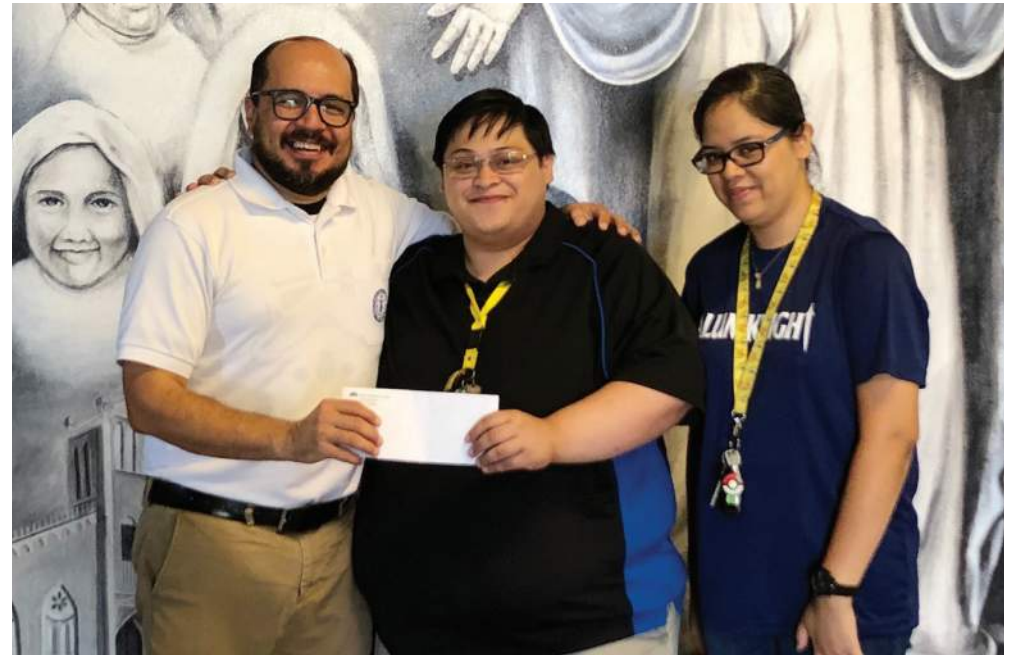
For the U14 division, Mt Carmel's Knights team beat The Bump while The Better Team defeated Dr. Pepper in the U18 division.

The sunny day allowed students to not only play competitive beach volleyball, but also experience SeaTouch to swim

and play with stingrays.

Fiesta Resort general manager Wendi Herring said, "Fiesta is a huge supporter of sports and we encourage more events at Fiesta to help our community enjoy some friendly competition, especially for a worthy cause."

Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan is part of Asia Pacific Hotel Inc., under TanHoldings Corp. (PR)



ALUMKNIGHTS GIVE BACK

Mount Carmel School thanks AlumKnights Juanet Sablan, right, and Nicolas Sablan, center, for contributing generously to their alma mater's ongoing recovery efforts in the aftermath of Super Typhoon Yutu. In presenting their donation to school president Galvin Deleon Guerrero, they said, "Our faith teaches us to help those in need and that love is about giving of ourselves not expecting." In addition to their financial donation, they had also contributed equipment to the school's cleanup efforts. The siblings own and manage TechNIC, a computer gaming company in Gualo Rai.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



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EDITORIAL

The US can fix its broken asylum system

After the recent melee involving Central American asylum seekers, Mexican police, and the U.S. Customs and Border Patrol, an uneasy calm has returned to the crossing between Tijuana and San Diego. It's unlikely to last. If President Trump doesn't change his policies, expect more tear gas, volleys of rocks, and howls of pain and outrage on both sides of the border.

This turmoil is avoidable. Mainly, the U.S. needs to mend its broken asylum system—and the solutions are more straightforward than you might think.

Everybody has the right to seek asylum, and nobody has the right to enter the U.S. illegally, by force or by stealth. People seeking sanctuary in the U.S. were wrong to rush the fence, and the Border Patrol was right to defend it. But applicants for asylum would be more likely to present themselves in an orderly way at ports of entry if the U.S. could process their applications in a timely and compassionate fashion. And that isn't happening.

The surge in asylum applications by Central Americans since 2010 has been driven mostly by illegal border crossings. In fact, a staggering 99 percent of the 94,285 Central Americans who were apprehended in 2017 entering the U.S. illegally as a family unit are still here. Many of these migrants are fleeing horrific violence and persecution, some might therefore be eligible for asylum, and the U.S. is obligated by domestic and international law to hear their claims.

But a huge and growing backlog of applications in the hundreds of thousands has created perverse incentives for would-be migrants to file spurious asylum claims, because these can allow them to remain in the U.S. for years while their cases wait to be processed. The backlog doesn't discourage bogus asylum seekers, as you might suppose; it does the opposite.

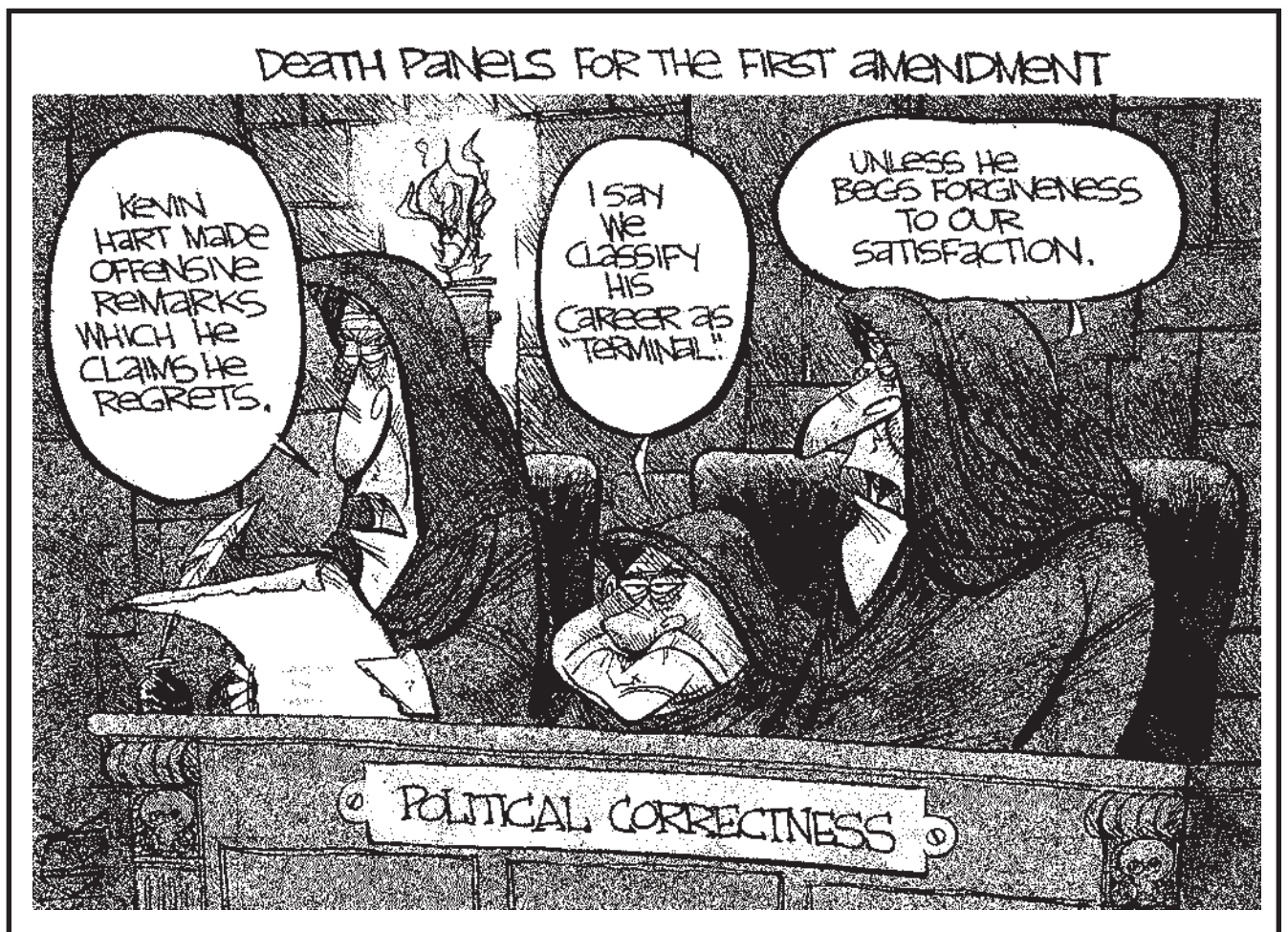
Trump is right that the U.S. asylum system "is being overwhelmed by migration through our southern border." Unfortunately, his remedies not only violate the letter of U.S. law and the humanitarian spirit that animates it—they've compounded the problem, by adding to the backlog and hence to the incentive to cheat.

A federal judge ruled last month that Trump's executive order narrowing access to asylum to those who apply at ports of entry contravened Congress's clear intent. And the administration's accompanying policy of "metering" applicants at ports of entry is designed more to discourage applications—regardless of their validity—than to impose greater order on the process. Bringing order to the process is the crux of the matter.

This is by no means impossible. The U.S. doesn't need to send more troops or shut down "the whole border." During the mid-1990s, the U.S. faced an influx of new asylum seekers that led to record new claims and a backlog of nearly 500,000 asylum cases by 1995. As the Migration Policy Institute recently noted, reforms backed by sufficient resources virtually eliminated that backlog over the next decade. This discouraged spurious applications and gave speedier relief to legitimate asylum seekers.

The same approach can work now. Hire and deploy more

See ASYLUM on Next Page



We waste a lot of food

Oddly shaped produce can make for a fun conversation. But most produce that doesn't fit the public's idea of normal ends up in a landfill. Some is never harvested at all.

Now some Triangle companies are trying to solve several issues with one delivery box.

Up to half of the fruits and vegetables grown in the U.S. aren't eaten, due to both appearance and demand. Growing, harvesting, shipping and selling food that will not be eaten costs us economic and environmental resources. Food in landfills releases methane, a greenhouse gas much more potent than carbon dioxide. And 14.4 percent of North Carolinians are food insecure, meaning they aren't always sure where their next meal is coming from.

It's hard to blame any one party. Growers harvest food they can sell. Supermarkets stock food consumers will buy. Consumers buy what they know, and we expect perfectly round onions and proportional broccoli exactly when we want it.

"Picking something and not having a place to sell it is a great way to lose a lot of money," said Jeff Bender of Bender Farms, a family operation of about 500 acres near the Virginia border. On smaller farms like Bender's, unsold produce can be re-purposed as feed for animals or used to put nutrients back into the soil. On larger operations, that unsold produce is often little more than waste.

Lisa Johnson, a senior research scholar at N.C. State University, estimates that 42 percent of vegetables grown in North Carolina are left unharvested, as a result of constraints outside the control of growers.

Farmers juggle customers and crops, grocery stores and distributors juggle customer demand and available supply, and none of it can be determined more than a few weeks in advance. All of these potential transactions can be thrown off by one season of especially hot or wet weather. "In the end, mother nature rules," Bender said.

Courtney Bell became concerned about food waste in the Triangle as a student at Duke, where she learned about the different ways wasted produce is a drain on our environment and economy.

Bell spent the second half of her college career building Ungraded Produce, a company that buys unsold produce from farmers and distributors and sells it directly to consumers for a discount. Bell began in 2016, buying unsold produce from two farms and selling it directly to 15 customers, mostly fellow Duke students.

Ungraded Produce, which Bell now runs full time with the help of an operations manager, acquires ugly and excess produce from farms and distributors around the state. This gives farmers a reason to harvest unattractive or extra produce and rescues

By SHELBI POLK

The News & Observer (Raleigh, N.C.)



food that distributors or supermarkets would have thrown away.

Her team of around a dozen part-time employees inspects produce for quality but ignores aesthetic blemishes that might disqualify it for a distributor. Finally, they deliver cheaper produce directly to their customers' doors. The delivery system, Bell said, makes her company especially important for people with mobility issues or those who don't have access to transportation.

Bell estimates that Ungraded Produce has rescued about 139,000 pounds of produce in 2018. The company also donates a few pounds of produce for every box they sell, which Bell said adds up to another 64,000 pounds donated.

Bart Creasemen is the Triangle market manager for Hungry Harvest, a national company with a similar operating model. Hungry Harvest moved into the Triangle in January, and it has already rescued 215,000 pounds of produce and donated another 15,000 pounds to organizations fighting hunger.

Creasemen said that there are just a few distributors that are largely in control of what produce people can find in the grocery store. His team wants to give people more options and help consumers reintegrate themselves into the food production system. "If you see what we get that doesn't make it to the grocery store, you'd be surprised," Creasemen said.

The food rescued by Ungraded Produce and Hungry Harvest remains out of reach for one of the populations who might benefit from lower priced produce the most: people using food stamps. Retailers can only accept food stamps through an in-person interaction, forcing the nearly 1.6 million SNAP benefits recipients in NC to drive to grocery stores, when even major retailers like Walmart pushing customers to have their groceries delivered. Bell said that Ungraded Produce is working with community centers and churches to begin in-person interactions for her company.

Hungry Harvest and Unsold Produce keep us healthier by reducing greenhouse gases and fighting hunger, all the while creating jobs and fostering competition. As the population continues to grow, both in North Carolina and globally, we need to continue to move forward with food solutions that address gaps in both consumer understanding and industry efficiency.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Mesklau

Pot dos besis i publiku ha bota “NO” gi inestablesen casino guine. Lau man-entalu’ sabiun I Deni’ ya makontradise i dos disision. Na ti i sentimentun i tautau uttimu atoridat gi disposision asuntun linahyan gi papa’ konseptun sisteman demokrasia na gobietnamentu? Kau in’ kemprende i konseptu? Na mamahlau!

I matatnga na heñiun miyu ha hatsa sospechu kau guaha umapase hamyu para in’ kenra sentimentun i tautau? Haye ennau na sabiu? Manu ‘nai mahafut ennau na maleta? Kuantu patten miyu kada maguadog hulu’ i sahguan pasalubung? Bali in’ bendi dignun miyu gi un’ eskadalu ni siempre u oppan gi publiku?

Gastu: Bira birada man-esalau hit pot guaguan gastun kandet. Lau i usun yenereta’ \$20 kada tres dias pat \$60 gi semana. Gi mes ennau i \$240 pesos. Guaguaña ke haf’ ta apapase i CUC. Ta padesi este dispues de pagyu.

Gi un’ destrosiau na kondision solu ayudu debi u fattu fineni na ginen hagu mismu. I para hinerat siempre u fattu lau dididi’ atrasasau. Masusesedi este ‘nai i numeru dañkulu na grupun tautau numesessita ayudu. ***

Halige: Esta mana’ fanachu haligen padet na tilifon siha giya As Gonno. Animu este na grupu pumega este na fasilidat gi señsoñg. Esta i lemlem tautau ‘nai madidiñgu che’chu’ niha.

Magahet na makat na kontrariu destrosiun ira. Tat ti nina’ benditu piot i man-dinestrosia gima’ niha. Gi hilu’ animu yan fitme na sensian esperansa una’lu tatte dispues otdinariu na modun linala’ ta.

Bai repite haf’ lini’e-hu: Si Yutu tiha hulug i troñku siha gi oriyen guma’. Ha fugu’ dispues ha dagau chagu’ yan i lugat-hu. Dios mihu na fuetsa!

Sunidu: I primet buruka i pañgpañg chachag gi bisinu dispues de kayada i pagyu. Tinahgue ni burukan yenereta’ gi minachum atdau. Tinagam ni katten gayu ‘an chatagmag. Sunidun areglu gi halum destrosiu.

Makat na mattiru espesiatmente para i mandestrosiau gima’ niha. Tanana’e agradesimientu todū ahensia ni mandaña ensegi-

das yan ayudu para i tautau siha gi señsoñg. Taya’ kampu para mankritisisa pot todū mandestrosiau.

I mañeluta lokue’ giya Tinian mandinestrosia as Yutu. Sin ditension matutuhun lokue’ ma-aregla tatte ha’anen niha. Gi hilu’ pinasensia siempre tapan mattu tatte gi otdinariu na modun linala’ ta taimanu antes de pagyu.

Chaleg: Dispues de pagyun Soudelor ha pega un’ amigu haligen tilifon ni hahafot kase sais pe papa’ gi edda’. Ilegña na pa’gu na biahe debi i amku’ umasahalum ‘an para u bogbug.

Gi finagpu’ pagyun Yutu taigue i haligen gima’ña. Sige chumaleg na fina’ pilun manog haligiña as Yutu. Ilegña, siña tafa’ chaleg otrū asuntu lau ti fuetsan i Saina. Ha tutuhun ta’lu humafot haligen gima’ña.

■■■

Hafaisen-yu’ si Lia’ haf’ i difirensia kuttura yan casino. I mefe’ na sinedi hau chumochu sopblan satdinas. I tatatte, ni para fahan satdinas. Dispues sige hau umesalau, “chupa lai, chupa lai, chupa lai”.

■■■

Mañgge’ amigu Magu kantaña pot Noche Buena. Ilegña, “A’chabuena, a’chabuena, adudu ada adu’...” Afamau na kantat Haliman pot ha’anen gupot siha. Ti hu tuñgu’ kau otrū finu’ Haliman i ha saulag i paire. I kanta gi finu’ Eñglis, “O’ Christmas Tree, O’ Christmas Tree...”

■■■

Usun binenu na amot tailaye para maseha haye na hobensitu kontodu man-echu tautau. Adingane famaguon miyu na u suhaye este na bisiu. Fuera de na atrasau destrosiau gi hinemlu’ niha. Pasensiaye ya unna’ seguru na manlibre ginen un’ pipinu’ na bisiu!

■■■

I hinemlo’ta petsonat na asuntu pot hagu solu kapitan gi galaide’mu. Atetuye ya un’ adahe hinanau-mu. Seguruyu’ na siempre un’ soda’ felis i safu na puettun hinemlu’. Cha’mu malelefa na hagu i kapitan. Na sattun hau sumusteni hinemlo’ mu!

■■■

The path to legal immigration—and the risk of being a ‘public charge’

Iam a pediatrician in an area of Chicago with a large immigrant population. I take care of the children of immigrant families, and I have witnessed firsthand the health consequences of the stresses put on these families because of their immigration status.

Now the Trump administration has proposed a new rule that would add to that stress by allowing the government to deny immigration for those who use public benefits. If my own parents’ immigration story had gone differently, and the proposed rule had been in place then, I might not be in the United States or be a pediatrician today.

My family’s story is a common one but one that has shaped who we are over decades. My mother’s father was a worker from Mexico who was able to get a green card through the Bracero program, a set of immigration laws that allowed manual workers to stay in the U.S., and my mother was granted a green card through him. My father, however, was not as fortunate. He married my mother in 1982 and, desperate for better job opportunities, came to the United States. Undocumented and unable to speak English, he found work as a manual laborer, earning less than minimum wage.

To help my father become documented, my mother began the process of obtaining her own citizenship. While my mom was in Mexico visiting family, my father was picked up by Immigration and Customs Enforcement while he was at work. He was taken to jail and told that he could return to Mexico and give up any chance of becoming documented or he could remain in jail. He decided to remain in jail rather than risk separation from his

family, and was released after my mom returned from Mexico.

Eventually my mom gained citizenship and my father was granted citizenship through my mother, but it was a difficult process. My family qualified for benefits and used them for a short time. However, my mom stopped using them because people told her that she was a burden on the government and that’s why people didn’t want us coming to this country.

Thirty years ago, my mother stopped using the benefits we were entitled to, out of shame. Today, immigrant families in similar circumstances are dropping out of programs designed to help them, out of fear. This fear is being deliberately spread by the U.S. government through methods such as separating families at the border, tear-gassing fleeing mothers and children who are seeking asylum and proposing policy changes — such as the proposed tightening of the “public charge” rule — to make it as difficult as possible for people like my parents to seek permanent resident status.

“Public charge” is a term used in immigration law to refer to a person who is primarily dependent on the government to meet his or her basic needs. It is applied to people seeking to enter this country or to obtain permanent resident status. Historically, the public charge test focused on whether applicants were receiving cash assistance for income maintenance or would need to be institutionalized for long-term care at government expense. Under the new proposal (public comments are open through midnight Monday), use of programs such as Medicaid, food and housing assistance, and potentially even the Children’s Health Insurance Program will be part of the assessment. Additionally, income counts toward this determination: Applications could be denied

at border enforcement, investment in the courts has been puny. Little wonder dockets are clogged.

Central America’s desperate migrants won’t stop seeking sanctuary or a better life until conditions in their countries improve. That’s one of many reasons why the U.S. also has an interest in sustaining and increasing its foreign aid. And the flood of asylum applicants reflects, in part, the pull from relatives in the U.S., many of whom are either undocumented or have tenuous legal status. Comprehensive immigration reform is needed

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.

Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.



Fina’pus ha’ane dañkulu na benefisiu i grasiosu na chaleg. Hana’ ñahlalañg haf’ umestotba hinasso-mu ya nina’e hau kampu man-hassu klaru. Dispues, sinedi hau usun pinasensia gi haf’ un’ petsisige.

■■■

Debi tapan eyag manpasensia piot ‘nai para un’ fan aregla famaguon. ‘An katma ‘nai un’ dispacha areglomu mas i famaguon makomprende manu ‘nai manlotgun siha.

Tai bali i para un’ esalague sa’ ti finañagun ga’ga’ i famaguonmu. Mauleg lokue’ un’ atmite ‘an guaha linachimū. Siempre relacion yan i famaguonmu mas adelantau.

■■■

Maseha haye na tautau, dos ti umalefa gi linala’ña: regalu yan matrata. Siña konrespetu pas relacion miyu. Lau ayu na matrata i un’ latigasū i prohimu petmanente na paladang gi korasoña.

Sige si amu yan empleauña mapega tatte makinan kareta. Gi uttimu, guaha tres totniyu fafatta gi hilu’ satge. Ilegña i amu, mauleg umapula’ dinuebu i makina. Ineppi ni empleauña, “Depends for you!” Magpu’ i nobenan talo’ane!

■■■

‘Nai duru pinake Saipan ni Amerikanu ginen i tasi, umafalague dos amku’ ya malagu para fina’ liyañg. Gi karera, kada ratu i bihu hinegsi mona ni lodu’ asaguaña. Ilegna, “Hafa Maria, esta puru ‘otsi taya’ para falagu?” Inadisgustun halum ñietí!

By JASMINE SAAVEDRA

Chicago Tribune

Dr. Jasmine Saavedra is a pediatrician in Chicago. She is a member of the Refugee and Immigrant Child Health Initiative and the Illinois Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics.



if the official does not think the person makes enough money to support himself or herself or their family.

This is devastating for many in the immigrant population, who are already dropping out of programs that they fear may jeopardize their chances of obtaining permanent resident status. As a physician, I worry that my patients may feel that seeking medical care for themselves or their children is too big a risk to take.

I think about my own family, whose members were afforded a chance to become citizens even after my father was detained. I think about how my mother turned down benefits because of shame, and how scared she would have been if she thought that even applying for them or having had them at one time would be used as an excuse to keep my family from becoming citizens.

Today I am a pediatrician, a chief resident at a large teaching hospital. My parents were fortunate enough to find a path to citizenship that would likely not be open to them today. I cannot imagine what my parents went through and the immense strength it took to overcome the obstacles they faced.

to address that.

In the meantime, instead of trying to restrict access to asylum through questionable or outright illegal executive orders, the U.S. should be processing applications more humanely and expeditiously. It really isn’t complicated. In this instance, greater administrative efficiency is the key to protecting the vulnerable and upholding American values and interests.






ASYLUM

From Page 10

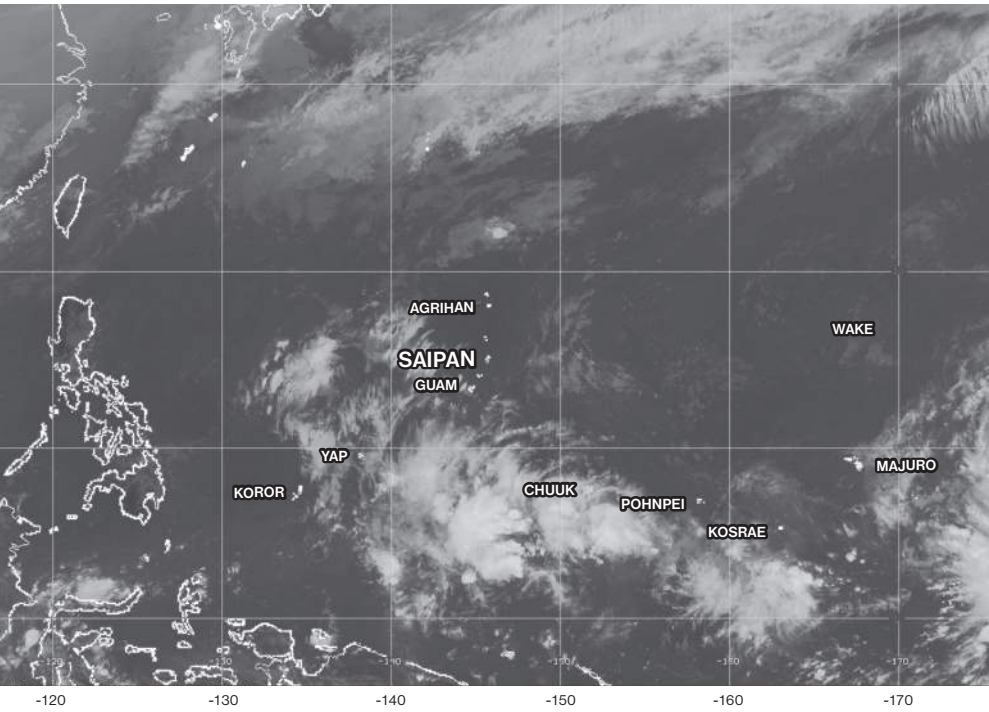
asylum officers. Appoint more immigration judges and clerks to clear the backlog. In a nation of lawyers, hiring an immigration judge shouldn’t take 21 months. And in 2018, the immigration courts’ record-keeping and case-management systems shouldn’t still be largely paper-driven. Compared with the money thrown

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY	
									
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	
89°	79°	89°	79°	88°	78°	88°	78°	88°	78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:09 AM, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2018
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Models show a dry season weather pattern over the Marianas with only partly cloudy skies and isolated showers expected through the week. Relative humidity at 700 mb will be less than 70 percent through the week which supports the idea of just isolated showers. Expect winds of 10 to 20 mph through the week.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	87° / 79°	
Palau	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°	
Yap	Partly Cloudy	87° / 80°	
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	87° / 78°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	87° / 78°	
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 81°	

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Showers	72° / 61°	
Beijing	Sunny	39° / 14°	
Hong Kong	Cloudy	66° / 57°	
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	80° / 71°	
London	Showers	46° / 37°	
Los Angeles	Sunny	68° / 48°	
Manila	Partly Cloudy	90° / 77°	
Melbourne	Thunderstorms	70° / 63°	
Miami	Mostly Cloudy	74° / 69°	
New York	Partly Cloudy	52° / 43°	
Osaka	Rain	73° / 66°	
Paris	Showers	41° / 30°	
Busan	Mostly Sunny	48° / 28°	
Rome	Showers	52° / 43°	
Salem	Partly Cloudy	88° / 70°	
San Francisco	Sunny	58° / 45°	
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	37° / 16°	
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	52° / 39°	
Washington, DC	Sunny	43° / 32°	



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
04:38 AM	LOW TIDE	-0.13	
11:53 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.82	
5:44 PM	LOW TIDE	1.22	
9:48 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.57	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:33 AM	5:47 PM
Thursday	633 AM	5:48 PM
Friday	6:34 AM	5:48 PM
Saturday	6:34 AM	5:48 PM
Sunday	6:35 AM	5:49 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	10:15 AM	9:56 PM	-
Thursday	10:57 AM	10:44 PM	-
Friday	11:37 AM	11:32 PM	-
Saturday	12:16 AM	-	-
Sunday	-	12:20 AM	12:54 PM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 20, 2018

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:15am	9:55am	Daily	UA174	7:30am	8:11am	Daily
UA105	4:45pm	5:25pm	2, 4	UA104	3:00pm	3:41pm	2, 4
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS) – temporarily suspended				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN – temporarily suspended			
7C3451	3:15am	6:30am	Daily	7C3452	9:35pm	2:00am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
				7C3452	10:05pm	2:00am+1	1
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily	7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
<i>Temporarily suspended:</i>				<i>Temporarily suspended:</i>			
TW9308	1:10am	4:10am	3, 4	TW9307	6:30pm	12:10am+1	2, 3
TW308	1:35am	5:20am	Daily	TW307	7:00pm	12:35am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1	TW307	7:05pm	12:35am+1	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
TW9308	3:20am	6:30am	2	OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
TW9308	3:25am	6:30am	5	TW9307	9:00pm	2:20am+1	1
7C3403	4:35am	8:25am	Daily	TW9307	9:05pm	2:25am+1	4
				7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648	6:10am	8:50am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:20pm	4:50am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)				HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN			
JD396	7:30am	11:00am	1	JD395	8:05am	3:30pm	4
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4	JD395	9:35pm	5:00am+1	7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:30am	7:55am	2, 6	3U8645	7:55pm	2:40am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK) – resume from Nov 27				BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7	MU763	4:40pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA117/183	9:15am	9:40pm	2, 5 via GUM	UA182/174	12:40am	8:11am+1	3, 6 via GUM
UA117/183	9:15am	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	PR110/UA174	10:05pm	8:11am+1	Daily via GUM
UA117/193	9:15am	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR	UA192/174	10:30pm	8:11am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA105/183	4:45pm	9:50pm	2, 4 via GUM	UA184/174	10:55pm	8:11am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
HX077	1:50am	5:15am	1, 4	HX076	5:15pm	12:15am+1	3, 7
U043	5:45am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7	U042	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7
UA117/159	9:15am	11:00pm	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via GUM	U042	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6
				UA116/174	11:45pm	8:11am+1	2, 4, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.			
SAIPAN TO ROTA			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily
GUAM TO ROTA			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily
SAIPAN TO TINIAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily
TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

Business

China ups pressure as tech exec's hearing goes into Tuesday

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (AP)—A jailed Chinese technology executive will have to wait at least one more day to see if she will be released on bail in a case that has raised U.S.-China tensions and complicated efforts to resolve a trade dispute that has roiled financial markets and threatened global economic growth.

Meng Wanzhou, the chief financial officer of Chinese telecommunications giant Huawei and daughter of its founder, was detained at the request of the U.S. during a layover at the Vancouver airport Dec. 1 — the same day that Presidents Donald Trump and Xi Jinping of China agreed to a 90-day cease-fire in the trade dispute that threatens to disrupt global commerce.

■■■
TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—Taiwan is reinforcing its five-year-old ban on network equipment produced by Chinese companies Huawei Technologies and ZTE Corp. amid security concerns.

Officials sought over the weekend to reassure lawmakers and the public that such measures have been effective and the threat to the communications sector is minimal.

Huawei has established a presence in Taiwan, with its handsets among the top sellers. The company also sponsors a Christmas extravaganza in a Taipei suburb that features a giant Santa emblazoned with Huawei's logo.

While several countries have similar bans in place, the risk for Taiwan is potentially greater since China claims the island as its own territory and threatens to use military force to bring it under its control. Back-doors that some allege Huawei has built into its products could give Beijing access to military and economic secrets or even to disable crucial infrastructure in the event of a conflict.

Taiwan has already accused China of meddling in last month's local elections by spreading false news online.



AP
A British Columbia sheriff looks on as people line up at a Vancouver courthouse prior to the bail hearing for Meng Wanzhou, Monday, December 10, 2018.

house arrest.

David Martin, Meng's lawyer, said Meng was willing to pay for a surveillance company to monitor her and wear an ankle monitor but she wanted to be able to travel around Vancouver and its suburbs. Scot Filer of Lions Gate Risk Management group said his company would make a citizen's arrest if she breached bail conditions.

Martin said Meng's husband would put up both of their Vancouver homes plus \$1 million Canadian (\$750,000) for a total value of \$15 million Canadian (\$11.2 million) as collateral.

The judge cast doubt on that proposal, saying Meng's husband isn't a resident of British Columbia—a requirement for him to act as a guarantor that his wife won't flee — and his visitor visa expires in February.

The prosecutor said her husband has no meaningful connections to Vancouver and spends only two or three weeks a year in the city. Gibb-Carsley also expressed concern about the idea of using a security company paid by Meng.

On Monday, legislators called for extending a ban on Huawei to the financial industry, where it reportedly has sought business providing digital finance services.

Financial Supervisory

Commission Chairman Wellington Koo was quoted by local media as saying the government would have to look into the legality of such a move.

Huawei, based in southern China's Shenzhen, near Hong Kong, is the world's largest supplier of network gear. ZTE is one of its rivals.

■■■

The U.S. has accused Huawei of using a Hong Kong shell company to sell equipment to Iran in violation of U.S. sanctions. It also says Meng and Huawei misled

banks about the company's business dealings in Iran.

After a second daylong session, Justice William Ehrcke said the bail hearing would continue Tuesday.

In urging the court to reject Meng's bail request, prosecutor John Gibb-Carsley noted the Huawei executive has vast resources and a strong incentive to flee as she is facing fraud charges in the United States that could put her in prison for 30 years.

Gibb-Carsley later told the judge that if he does decide to grant bail it should include

Prosecutors indict Nissan's Ghosn for underreporting pay

TOKYO (AP)—Prosecutors have charged Nissan Motor Co.'s former chairman Carlos Ghosn, another executive and the automaker itself for allegedly violating financial laws by underreporting income.

The charges imposed Monday involve allegations Ghosn's pay was underreported by about 5 billion yen (\$44 million) in 2011-2015. The prosecutors said earlier that the allegations were the reason for Ghosn's arrest on Nov. 19.

The arrest of an industry icon admired both in Japan and around the world has stunned many and raised concerns over the Japanese automaker and the future of its alliance with Renault SA of France.

The prosecutors issued statements Monday outlining new allegations against Ghosn and Greg Kelly, the other executive. Those are of underreporting another 4 billion yen (\$36 million) in 2016-2018. Nissan as a company was not mentioned in the latest allegations, which did not give details about the income thought to have been

underreported.

In Japan, a company can be charged with wrongdoing. A court date is still undecided as the prosecutors continue to question Ghosn and Kelly.

The maximum penalty for violating Japan's financial laws, as the prosecutors allege, is 10 years in prison, a 10 million yen (\$89,000) fine, or both.

Some kind of action by the prosecutors had been expected because the detention period allowed for the allegations disclosed earlier was to end on Monday.

Nissan Motor Co. confirmed the charges against it in a statement and vowed to strengthen its governance and compliance.

"Nissan takes this situation extremely seriously," it said. "Making false disclosures in annual securities reports greatly harms the integrity of Nissan's public disclosures in the securities markets, and the company expresses its deepest regret."

Kelly, 62, an American, is suspected of having collaborated with Ghosn.

Kelly's attorney in the

U.S., Aubrey Harwell, told The Associated Press earlier this month that his client is asserting his innocence. He said insiders at Nissan and outside experts had said the handling of the income reporting was legal.

Ghosn has not commented.

Ghosn was ousted as Nissan chairman and Kelly lost his representative director title following their arrests. They both remain on Nissan's board pending a shareholder's meeting.

Ghosn, 64, was sent to Nissan by its partner Renault SA of France in 1999. He led a dramatic turnaround of the near-bankrupt Japanese automaker. But his star-level compensation drew attention since executives in Japan tend to be paid far less than their international counterparts.

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe told a news conference Monday that relations between Japan and France are unshakable despite concerns over the future of Nissan's alliance with Renault after Ghosn's indictment.

China, US discuss plans for trade talks

BEIJING (AP)—China's economy czar and the U.S. Treasury secretary discussed plans for talks on a tariff battle, the government said Tuesday, indicating negotiations are going ahead despite tension over the arrest of a Chinese tech executive.

Vice Premier Liu He and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin talked by phone about "the promotion of the next economic and trade consultations," a two-sentence Commerce Ministry statement said. It gave no other details.

The announcement indicated talks are on track despite China's weekend threats of unspecified "grave consequences" if the Huawei Technologies Ltd. executive isn't

released. She was arrested in Canada on U.S. charges of possible violations of trade sanctions on Iran.

President Donald Trump agreed Dec. 1 to postpone more U.S. tariff hikes on Chinese imports for 90 days while the two sides negotiate over American complaints about Beijing's technology policy.

The Huawei chief financial officer, Meng Wanzhou, was arrested the same day in Vancouver, British Columbia.

Despite that, the Commerce Ministry said last week Beijing would carry out terms of the cease-fire and expressed optimism a deal can be reached during the 90-day period.

The Chinese government raised more doubts over the

weekend when it demanded Canada and the United States withdraw the charges and release Meng, the daughter of Huawei founder Ren Zhengfei, or face unspecified "grave consequences."

Trump approved tariff hikes of 25 percent on \$50 billion of Chinese goods and 10 percent on another \$200 billion of imports in response to complaints Beijing steals or pressures companies to hand over technology.

China retaliated with penalties on \$110 billion of American goods but is running out of imports for retaliation due to their lopsided trade balance. Trump has threatened to expand charges to all goods from China.



LEADING INDICATORS

DOW

24,423.26

+34.31

+0.14%

S&P

2,637.72

+4.64

+0.18%

NASDAQ

7,020.52

+51.27

+0.74%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar 1.3883

British Pound 0.7952

Canadian Dollar 1.3399

Chinese Yuan 6.7798

Euro 0.8798

Hong Kong Dollar 7.8136

Indian Rupee 71.5375

Japanese Yen 113.0270

Malaysian Ringgit 4.1349

New Zealand Dollar 1.4533

Philippine Peso 51.8518

Russian Ruble 66.6251

Singapore Dollar 1.3725

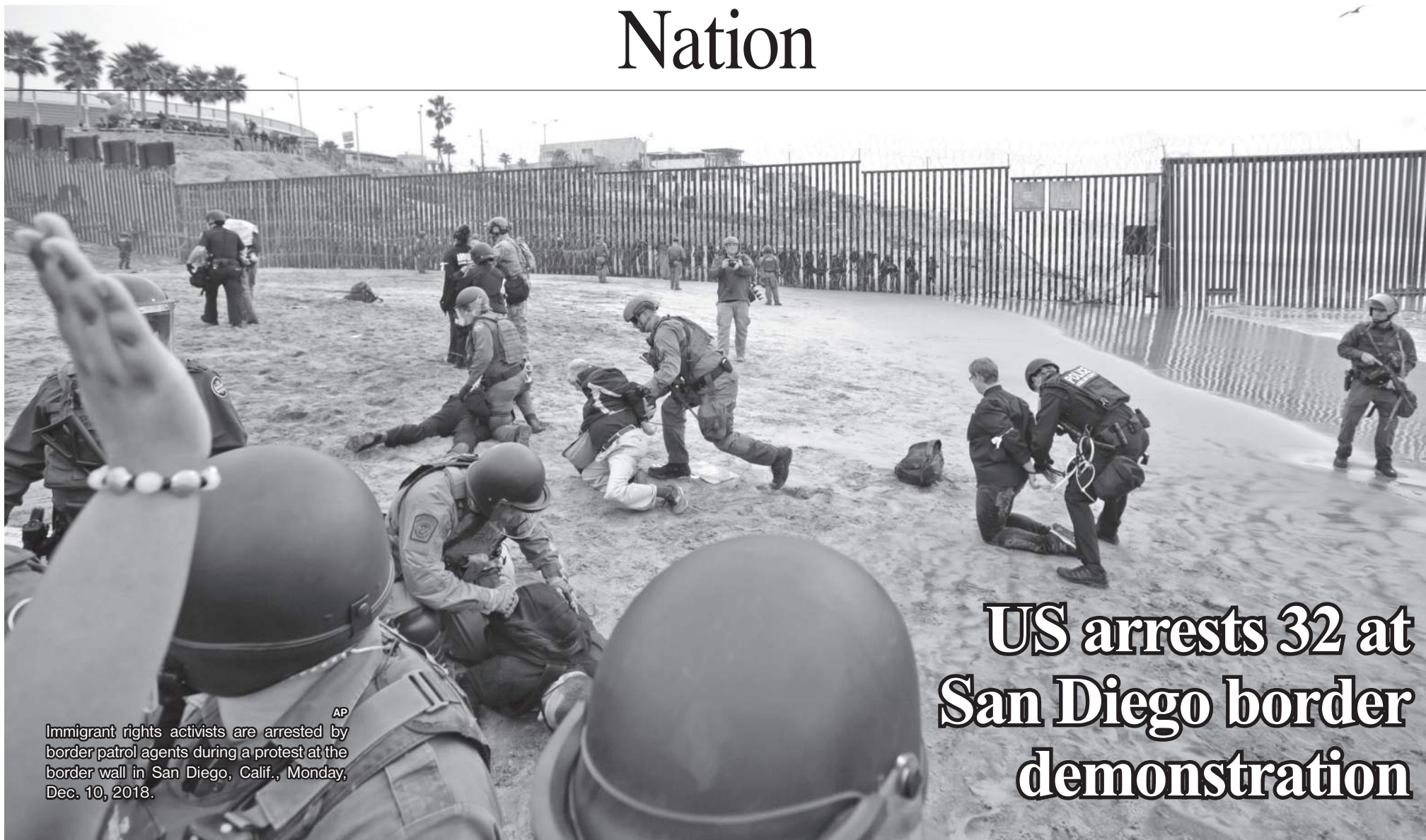
South Korean Won 1110.32

Swiss Franc 0.9888

Taiwan Dollar 30.3423

Thailand Baht 32.7715

Nation



US arrests 32 at San Diego border demonstration

AP
Immigrant rights activists are arrested by border patrol agents during a protest at the border wall in San Diego, Calif., Monday, Dec. 10, 2018.

SAN DIEGO (AP)—U.S. authorities arrested 32 people at a demonstration Monday that was organized by a Quaker group on the border with Mexico, authorities said. Demonstrators were calling for an end to detaining and deporting immigrants and showing support for migrants in a caravan of Central American asylum seekers.

A photographer for The Associated Press saw about a dozen people being handcuffed after they were told by agents to back away from

a wall that the Border Patrol calls “an enforcement zone.” The American Friends Service Committee, which organized the demonstration, said 30 people were stopped by agents in riot gear and taken into custody while they tried to move forward to offer a ceremonial blessing near the wall.

Border Patrol spokesman Eduardo Olmos said 31 people were arrested on suspicion of trespassing by the Federal Protective Service and one was arrested by the Border Patrol for assaulting an agent.

More than 300 people, many the leaders of churches, mosques, synagogues and indigenous communities, participated in the demonstration at San Diego’s Border Field State Park, which borders Tijuana, Mexico.

U.S. authorities arrested 32 people at a demonstration Monday organized by faith leaders on the border with Mexico. Demonstrators were calling for an end to deportations, and showing support for the caravan migrants asylum seekers. (Dec 10)

The rally held on a beach divided by the border wall was the second confrontation for Border Patrol agents since a caravan of more than 6,000 migrants, predominantly Hondurans, reached Tijuana last month. A confrontation with rock-throwers from Mexico led to U.S. agents firing tear gas into Mexico on Nov. 25 and a five-hour closure of the nation’s busiest border crossing.

Thousands of migrants are living in crowded tent cities in Tijuana after undertaking a grueling journey from Central

America to the U.S. border. Many face waiting weeks or months in Mexico while they apply for asylum. The U.S. is processing up to about 100 claims a day at the San Diego crossing, which is creating a backlog.

The demonstration Monday was meant to launch a national week of action called “Love Knows No Borders: A moral call for migrant justice,” which falls between Human Rights Day on Monday, and International Migrants’ Day on Dec. 18, the group said.

“Showing up to welcome and bless children, mothers and fathers seeking asylum from very difficult and dehumanizing circumstances is the right and humane thing to do,” said Bishop Minerva G. Carcano, from the San Francisco Area United Methodist Church. “How we act in these moments determines who we will become as a nation.”

The group also is calling on Congress to defund Immigration and Customs Enforcement and Customs and Border Protection.

Police rip toddler from mother’s arms at benefits office

NEW YORK (AP)—Outrage built Monday over a video showing police officers violently yanking a toddler from his mother’s arms at a Brooklyn public benefits office, with officials criticizing police for not de-escalating the situation and clients of the facility complaining it is indicative of how the city treats social-services recipients.

The video, taken by a bystander, captured the chaotic scene that unfolded last Friday as officers tried to remove mother Jazmine Headley from the crowded office, where she had sat on the floor for two hours because of a lack of chairs. Police were called when she refused a security guard’s order to leave. The woman ended up lying face-up on the floor during a tug of war over her 18-month-old son.

“The baby was screaming for his life,” Nyashia Ferguson, who posted video on Facebook under the name

Monae Sinclair, told The New York Times. “The lady was begging for them to get off of her. I was scared.”

Other clients shouted at the officers. At one point, an officer can be seen pulling her stun gun and pointing it at people in the angry crowd.

Headley was charged with obstructing governmental administration, resisting arrest, endangering the welfare of a child and trespassing. As of Monday afternoon, she was still in jail because there was a warrant for her arrest in New Jersey, prosecutors said. Bail was not requested and prosecutors were reaching out to New Jersey officials to “expedite her release.”

A family member was taking care of the child, authorities said.

The Brooklyn public defender’s office called on prosecutors to dismiss the charges.

At a news conference outside the benefits office Mon-

day, Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams, a Democrat and former police officer, likened the officers involved in Headley’s arrest to “Border Patrol police snatching away” a baby. He called the arrest “a blemish on our entire city.”

“The mother didn’t endanger the welfare of the child. The actions of the department endangered the welfare of the child,” Adams said. “If it’s wrong in Mexico, then it’s wrong in New York City.”

City Council Speaker Corey Johnson, a Democrat, called the incident “appalling and heart breaking,” and criticized both the police and the city agency where Headley had gone for help.

“It is unacceptable that Human Resources Administration has such little capacity to handle its core functions that folks seeking their assistance must sit on the floor with their children while waiting for an appointment,” he said in a statement.

ACROSS THE NATION

Firms to pay \$9M to settle suit over 2012 California fire

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—Officials say a construction company and a logging firm have collectively agreed to pay \$9 million for damages resulting from a 2012 wildfire that burned more than 1,600 acres of national forest land in Northern California. The U.S. Attorney’s office in Sacramento says Monday that the agreement settles a lawsuit brought by the federal government against Kernen Construction and Bundy & Sons Logging. Prosecutors say Bundy logging equipment hauled by Kernen became unsecured and dragged along a highway, causing sparks that ignited dry vegetation. The resulting blaze charred a swath of brush and timber within the Shasta-Trinity National Forest. Neither company admits liability for the fire under the settlement.

Police: Boy, 3, shot an 8-month-old girl in motel room

GALLUP, N.M. (AP)—A couple is facing charges after authorities say a 3-year-old shot an 8-month-old girl in the face while the couple was in a motel shower. Police say Shyanne Nelson and Tyrell Bitsilly were at a motel Saturday in Gallup, New Mexico, when Nelson’s child found a gun and accidentally fired it, hitting the baby. According to a crimi-

nal complaint, the 18-year-old Nelson says she didn’t know a gun was in the room and it may have been left by a prior occupant. A witness told police he saw the 21-year-old Bitsilly wipe the gun after the shooting. The baby was taken to a hospital. Her current condition is unknown. Nelson and the Bitsilly are facing child abuse charges. It was not known if either is represented by an attorney.

Hawk that lived for days with arrow in leg euthanized

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—A red-tailed hawk spotted in the Twin Cities with an arrow lodged in one of its legs has died despite efforts to save its life. The hawk was first reported on Nov. 30, and it continued to fly with the arrow in its leg. It was finally captured Wednesday but the University of Minnesota’s Raptor Center couldn’t save it.

Someone likely intentionally shot the federally protected bird, Raptor Center Executive Director Julia Ponder told the Minneapolis Star Tribune. “It appears based on the path of the arrow through the body that the bird was likely perched and shot from below,” she said. Center officials said they couldn’t repair the damage to the hawk’s right leg, so it was euthanized. The bird would never have been able to hunt for itself if released and would have suffered constant pain if kept in captivity, according to the center.

Asia

US returns 3 bells seized from PH a century ago

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Three church bells seized by American troops as war trophies more than a century ago arrived in Manila on Tuesday to be handed back to the Philippines in a move long demanded by Filipino leaders, including the current president, who is critical of Washington and has moved closer to China.

A representative of Defense Secretary James Mattis is to turn over the Bells of Balangiga to the Philippine defense chief in a ceremony at an air force base in the capital, closing a dark chapter in the treaty allies' love-hate relationship.

Mattis has said the handover is an important gesture of friendship and is in the U.S. national security interest. Some U.S. veterans and officials had opposed the return of the bells, calling them memorials to American war dead.

The bells are revered by Filipinos as symbols of national pride, and their arrival on a U.S. military transport plane was shown live on national television.

Two of the bells were at F.E. Warren Air Force Base in



Philippine Air Force personnel unload three church bells seized by American troops as war trophies more than a century ago, as they are flown back Tuesday, Dec. 11, 2018 in suburban Pasay city, southeast of Manila, Philippines. AP

S. Korea charges 4 with illegally importing North Korean coal

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korean prosecutors said Monday that they have charged four people with illegally importing North Korean coal via Russia in violation of U.N. sanctions.

The indictments, handed down on Friday, came four months after customs authorities accused three of the four of using forged documents to illicitly import 35,000 tons of North Korean coal and other minerals worth \$5.8 million.

South Korean media said prosecutors found an additional person implicated in the case during an investigation.

Prosecutors said in a statement that the four people and their five entities were charged with violating a law requiring government approval to bring North Korean products into the South.

U.N. sanctions that were toughened in 2017 ban member states from importing North Korean coal and other minerals that had been key sources of foreign currency for the impoverished yet nuclear-armed country.

The prosecutors' statement said the four people attempted to get profits by selling North Korean minerals whose prices dropped in

the wake of the sanctions. It said they used falsified documents and transshipments at Russian ports to disguise North Korean minerals as Russian ones.

North Korea has been seeking sanctions relief in return for some of the measures the country has taken since entering nuclear talks early this year, such as dismantling its nuclear testing site and suspending weapons tests. U.S. officials want the North to take more significant steps.

South Korea's liberal president, Moon Jae-in, who favors a negotiated solution to the nuclear issue, has facilitated U.S.-North Korea diplomacy this year. But when he met President Donald Trump recently on the sidelines of the G-20 summit in Argentina, the two agreed that sanctions would remain in place until North Korea completes its nuclear disarmament.

A South Korean Foreign Ministry official said the indictments should be seen as an effort by the government to abide by U.N. sanctions. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because she wasn't authorized to speak to reporters on the issue.

Cheyenne, Wyoming, and the third was with the U.S. Army in South Korea.

After being colonized by Spain for more than three centuries, the Philippines became a U.S. possession in 1898 in a new colonial era that began with the outbreak of the Philippine-American War.

American occupation troops took the bells from a Catholic church following an attack by machete-wielding Filipino villagers, who killed 48 U.S. troops in the town of Balangiga on central Samar island in 1901 in one of the U.S. Army's worst single-battle losses of that era.

One of the bells had been

sounded to signal the attack by the villagers, some of whom were disguised as women who hid in the church near an American garrison, said historian Rolando Borrinaga, who has studied the history of the bells.

The Americans retaliated, reportedly killing villagers above the age of 10, and a U.S. general, Jacob Smith, ordered Samar to be turned into a "howling wilderness," Borrinaga said.

President Rodrigo Duterte, who has often lashed out at U.S. security policies, asked Washington in his state of the nation address last year to "return them to us, this is painful for us."

"Give us back those Balangiga bells. ... They are part of

our national heritage," Duterte said in the speech, attended by the U.S. ambassador and other diplomats.

The Philippine ambassador to the U.S., Jose Manuel Romualdez, told The Associated Press last week that with the bitter issue of the bells now resolved, he expects the U.S.-Philippine alliance to strengthen.

Duterte has had an antagonistic attitude toward the U.S. and has improved ties with China and Russia. Last year, he raised the bells' return in a meeting with Mattis, who pledged to give them back, Romualdez said.

A breakthrough came when an amendment was made to

a U.S. law banning the return of war relics and memorials to foreign countries to allow the homecoming of the Balangiga bells, said Philippine Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana, who saw the bells last year in Wyoming, where he was notified by Mattis of the U.S. decision.

Philippine officials led by Duterte are to turn over the bells on Saturday to the church in Balangiga.

"This is a closure of that brutal and tragic episode during the Philippine-American war," Borrinaga said. "It's like starting a new relationship premised on peace, friendship and reconciliation."

ASIAN BRIEFS

New Zealand law to make medical marijuana widely available

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—New Zealand's government has passed a law that will make medical marijuana widely available for thousands of patients over time. The legislation passed Tuesday will also allow terminally ill patients to begin smoking illegal pot immediately without facing the possibility of prosecution. The measures come ahead of a planned national referendum on recreational marijuana use. The government has pledged to hold that referendum some

time over the next two years, but has not yet set a date or finalized the wording. The new law allows much broader use of medical marijuana, which was previously highly restricted. But patients wanting to use marijuana for conditions like chronic pain will have to wait a year until a new set of regulations, licensing rules and quality standards are put in place.

German man who fought for Taliban convicted of terrorism

BERLIN (AP)—A 37-year-old German man who fought for the Taliban in Afghanistan has been convicted of mem-

bership in a terrorist organization. The dpa news agency reported Monday that Thomas K. was sentenced in Duesseldorf state court to six years in prison. His last name wasn't given in line with German privacy laws, Prosecutors said he started fighting for the Taliban in 2013 and continued until he was captured in February. He was returned to Germany in April. When he was charged, prosecutors said he prepared explosives, got ready for a suicide attack and worked on a propaganda video aimed at German radicals. He also allegedly had himself filmed participating in a failed mortar attack on an Afghan army base.

Taliban kill 8 Afghan soldiers in attack on checkpoint

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—An Afghan official says the Taliban have attacked an army checkpoint in the western Farah province, killing at least eight Afghan soldiers. Abdul Samad Salehi, a provincial council member, says the insurgents abducted another 10 soldiers in the attack late Saturday. Provincial police spokesman Mohibullah Mohib says three insurgents were killed and four others were wounded. The Taliban, who control nearly half the country, carry out daily attacks mainly targeting security forces.

World



AP
Yemenis take part in a protest calling for the reopening of Sanaa airport to receive medical aid, in front of the U.N. offices in Sanaa, Yemen, Monday, Dec. 10, 2018.

UN: 20 million Yemenis are hungry, 250,000 face catastrophe

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—Twenty million people in war-torn Yemen are hungry—a staggering 70 percent of the population and a 15 percent increase from last year—and for the first time 250,000 are facing “catastrophe,” the U.N. humanitarian chief said Monday.

Mark Lowcock, who recently returned from Yemen, told reporters there has been “a significant, dramatic deterioration” of the humanitarian situation in the country and “it’s alarming.”

He said that for the first time, 250,000 Yemenis are in Phase 5 on the global scale for classifying the severity and magnitude

of food insecurity and malnutrition—the severest level, defined as people facing “starvation, death and destitution.”

Lowcock, the U.N. undersecretary-general for humanitarian affairs, said those 250,000 Yemenis facing “catastrophe” are overwhelmingly concentrated in four provinces “where the conflict is raging quite intensely”—Taiz, Saada, Hajja and Hodeida.

The only other country where anyone is in Phase 5 is South Sudan, with 25,000 people affected, he added.

Lowcock said there are also nearly 5 million Yemenis in Phase 4, which is defined as the “emergency” level, in which

people suffer from severe hunger and “very high acute malnutrition and excess mortality” or an extreme loss of income that will lead to severe food shortages. He said these people live in 152 of Yemen’s 333 districts, a sharp increase from 107 districts last year.

Large numbers of people “have moved into a worse category of food insecurity” as a result of the war, Lowcock said.

The conflict in Yemen began with the 2014 takeover of the capital of Sanaa by Iranian-backed Houthi rebels, who toppled the government of Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi. A Saudi-led coalition allied with Yemen’s internation-

ally recognized government has been fighting the Houthis since 2015.

Saudi-led airstrikes have hit schools, hospitals and wedding parties and killed thousands of Yemeni civilians. The Houthis have fired long-range missiles into Saudi Arabia and targeted vessels in the Red Sea.

Civilians have borne the brunt of the conflict, which has killed over 10,000 people and created the world’s worst humanitarian crisis.

“There’s millions of Ye-

menis who are hungry and sick and scared and desperate and starving, but they’ve all got one message and their message is that they’re at the end of their tether and they want this war to stop,” Lowcock said.

He said “there are millions and millions of people whose plight would be much, much worst but for the ongoing relief operation,” which is currently reaching 8 million Yemenis.

Lowcock said the U.N. plans to reach 15 million peo-

ple next year and will be appealing for \$4 billion—compared to this year’s \$3 billion appeal and last year’s \$2 billion request.

He said Secretary-General Antonio Guterres will host a pledging conference with Sweden and Switzerland in Geneva on Feb. 26. And he welcomed a new \$500 million pledge from Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, key coalition members, saying he understands “it will be largely in response to the 2019 appeal.”

Brexit deal in turmoil as May postpones Parliament vote

LONDON (AP)—Facing almost certain defeat, British Prime Minister Theresa May on Monday postponed a vote in Parliament on her Brexit deal, saying she would go back to European Union leaders to seek changes to the divorce agreement.

May’s move threw Britain’s Brexit plans into disarray, intensified a domestic political crisis and battered the pound. With EU officials adamant the withdrawal deal was not up for renegotiation, the country does not know on what terms it will leave—and whether May will still be Britain’s leader when it does.

In an emergency statement to the House of Commons, May accepted that the divorce deal she struck last month with EU leaders was likely to be rejected “by a significant

margin” if the vote were held Tuesday as planned.

May said she would defer the vote so she could seek “assurances” from the EU and bring the deal back to Parliament. She did not set a new date for the vote. The U.K.’s departure is supposed to take place on March 29.

Opposition lawmakers—and ones from May’s Conservative Party—were incredulous and angry. Some accused her of trampling on parliamentary democracy.

“The government has lost control of events and is in complete disarray,” Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn said.

Corbyn demanded, and was granted, an emergency debate Tuesday on the postponement. But Labour lawmaker Lloyd Russell-Moyle was expelled from Parliament for the day

after he grabbed the House of Commons’ ceremonial mace as a sign of protest.

The centuries-old gilded staff is the symbol of royal authority. Without it, the Commons can’t meet or pass laws.

Jacob Rees-Mogg, a leading pro-Brexit Conservative, expressed despair at the Brexit shambles.

“It’s not really governing,” he said. “It’s just an awful muddle.”

Monday’s turmoil sent the pound to a 20-month low against the dollar of \$1.2550.

It was a new blow for May, who became prime minister after Britain’s 2016 referendum decision to leave the EU. She has been battling ever since—first to strike a divorce deal with the bloc, then to sell it to skeptical British lawmakers.

Italy: Teen, club owners investigated in fatal stampede

ROME (AP)—Italian prosecutors said Monday they have placed eight people, including one minor, under investigation in connection with a stampede at a packed nightclub that killed six people, five of them teenagers.

Authorities stressed that the investigation was just beginning. Investigators are seeking more information about security measures, ticket sales and the capacity of the Blue Lantern disco in the small town of Corinaldo near the Adriatic coast, as well as the cause of the panic that sent concertgoers running for the exits.

One hypothesis is that thieves used irritant sprays on the crowd to spark panic that would hide their thefts, a stunt that has been used at other concerts and gatherings in Italy.

“It’s a phenomenon that has occurred elsewhere in Italy and I don’t exclude that it could be the case here,” said Giovanna Leboroni, prosecutor for juveniles in the Marche region.

Many concertgoers reported problems breathing, as well as a smell of pepper spray or ammonia, though it’s not certain that a canister of irritant found at the scene was the sole cause of the panic, she told a news conference Monday.

Hundreds of young people waiting for Italian rapper Sfera Ebbasta’s show poured out of the Blue Lantern early Saturday onto a raised ramp to get air. At one point, the railing gave way, sending the concertgoers tumbling on top of one another.

Five teens died, as well as a 39-year-old mother of four who had accompanied her 11-year-old daughter to the show. The child survived.

The seven adults under investigation include the club owners and concert organizers. Leboroni stressed that a 17-year-old was added to the list of suspects purely because he had been identified “generically” by three witnesses, not because investigators had firm

evidence against him.

A key focus of the investigation concerns ticket sales. Prosecutor Monica Garulli said concert organizers had requested 1,600 tickets be printed. While not all of them were purchased and even fewer used, the capacity of the main hall of the venue where the concert was due to take place was 459, while Blue Lantern’s overall capacity was 871.

In addition, some concertgoers reported getting into the venue without tickets, but rather with separate reservations for tables at the bar.

Just last month, prosecutors investigating the deadly stampede at a Champions League final viewing party in a Turin piazza identified use of pepper spray by thieves as the source of the panic.

And Italian news agency ANSA reported three separate spray incidents in Italy, including one at a school in Pavia on Monday that sent dozens of students to the hospital.

Focus

By JOCELYN GECKER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—They have become known as the Angels of Paradise. But there is nothing ethereal about them.

They are online sleuths who know how to find people, and they have been putting their skills to use in the aftermath of California's catastrophic wildfire.

In the dark days that followed the Nov. 8 inferno, the deadliest in California history, social media filled with posts from people trying to contact loved ones from the Paradise area.

Panic spread as the magnitude of destruction came into focus: At least 85 dead. Nearly 14,000 homes destroyed. From across the U.S., people posted names of aunts, uncles, foster parents, distant relatives and long-lost friends or acquaintances and asked, "Does anyone know if they are safe?"

Nancy Collins knew she could help. A mother of two and a 911 dispatcher, Collins volunteers as a "search angel," someone who helps adoptees find their biological parents. She knows her way around public records and how to track people down.

She offered her services to the administrator of a newly created Facebook page, "Camp Fire Missing Persons, Paradise CA," after noticing panicked posts were piling up.

A group of women who help adoptees find their biological parents are using their sleuthing skills to help people find loved ones in the aftermath of a catastrophic California wildfire, earning the nickname the Angels of Paradise. (Dec. 10)

"I said, 'I have a bunch of genealogy friends, and we can help,'" said Collins, who lives in the San Francisco Bay Area and formed a team of eight "angels" from around the country and one in Canada, all of whom volunteer with a group called Search Squad. "The rest was history."

Working on laptops from their living room sofas, home offices and kitchen counters, they communicated in online chat groups and divvied up hundreds of posts. They used public databases to find property deeds, court records and bankruptcy filings, and logged onto people-finding sites like Ancestry.com, BeenVerified.com, the online White Pages and others. They looked for cellphone numbers and email addresses and names of friends, relatives, neighbors and associates who might have clues.



California inferno gives rise to family-reuniting 'Angels'

In the four weeks since the fire started, the search angels have connected nearly 250 people with the relatives and friends they were searching for. They are one of several missing persons groups that sprung up on Facebook with the intention of helping strangers in a time of need, harnessing the power of social media and dogged investigative work.

"I reached out to the angels, and they really are angels," said Delisa Gaeta, 55, who was concerned about her foster father, whom she hadn't seen in years. "I threw a lifeline out there, and they grabbed hold of it and reeled it in. They just made it happen."

At first, Gaeta didn't know if her foster father, Dale Wingett, had made it out of his Paradise home alive. Authorities had no information on him, and after two weeks of trying to contact him, she was losing hope. Then she saw his picture in a local newspaper at a Thanksgiving dinner for survivors in the Northern California city of Redding. Gaeta desperately wanted to speak to Wingett and see if

he needed help.

"It became a group project," said Dawn Kosmakos, a search angel who lives in Martinez, in the San Francisco Bay Area. "It was like, 'OK, girls. Let's find him!'"

They alerted the sheriff's office, did online searches and tried calling family and a property management company, Collins said. They found out Wingett had left Redding and was heading about 80 miles (130 kilometers) south, to the city of Willows.

"We called every hotel in Willows and said, 'If he checks in, can you give him this message?'" said Collins, and that's how they found him. Wingett got the message, called them back, got Gaeta's number and called her. They have since emailed and spoken several times.

For Wingett, the connection brought happiness at a time of great loss.

"We have had really moving talks," said Wingett, contacted by phone at a hotel in Sutter Creek. "She told me that even though I was her foster father, to her I was her father. That hit me pretty strongly."

Gaeta says she has peace of mind after weeks of sleepless nights.

"I am so grateful to the work of these women," said Gaeta, who lives in the Bay Area city of Santa Clara. "They gave me the best Christmas gift."

Diana Sauer, 39, feels a similar sense of gratitude and wonder for the work of the angels, who use methods for finding people that many don't know exist.

"I owe them everything," said Sauer, who lives in the San Francisco area but grew up in Paradise and was worried about her father's best friend, Russell Anderson. "I don't think I would have found him without them."

Anderson is 70 and lived simply, she said, with no cellphone or internet.

"It made him one of those very difficult people to find," said Sauer, who knew Anderson had no children but was close with his ex-wife's daughter, Charmaine. Sauer did not know Charmaine's last name, but the angels found her.

"They ended up finding Charmaine's marriage record, then they found birth

records showing she had children. They found her children on Facebook and asked, 'Do you know Russell, and is he with you?'"

The answer was yes. She spoke to Anderson on the phone for 40 minutes, and caught him up on her life, her marriage, her own children. They hadn't spoken in 15 years. "It was a very sweet conversation between two people that love each other and haven't seen each other in a long time."

Several people that Collins' group tracked down appeared on the official list of people unaccounted for after the fire. That list, managed by the Butte County Sheriff's Office, is down to six names from a high of 1,300 last month.

Sheriff Kory Honea acknowledged the work of Facebook groups in the effort but said his agency wasn't coordinating with them or using their resources, primarily because it was so swamped with other work.

"If the Facebook group knows that (people) are safe, they should call us and let us know. There's no way my staff

AP
In this Wednesday, Dec. 5, 2018, photo, Diana Sauer holds a family photograph of her father, Warren Deboer, holding her as a baby, and his best friend Russell Anderson, left, in Concord, Calif. In the aftermath of Northern California's catastrophic wildfire, social media sites filled with posts from people trying to find loved ones in and near the town of Paradise. A group of women scattered across the U.S. knew they could help. The women volunteer as "search angels," those who help adoptees find their biological parents. So far, they have tracked down nearly 250 people and linked them with friends and family who were looking for them becoming known as the Angels of Paradise.

can check the myriad of Facebook pages," Honea told The Associated Press.

Collins said when her team located a "missing" person who was on the official list, they emailed the sheriff's office and also told friends and family of those found to contact the sheriff's office to have their names removed.

Susie Elliot, 63, tried to get official information about her cousin in Paradise, Dee Riley, but called the sheriff's office and got repeated busy signals.

For over two weeks, Elliot, who lives in San Dimas, near Los Angeles, checked everywhere she could think of for Riley. She contacted the Red Cross, which was running shelters for fire evacuees, and it had no record of Riley so directed her to the Butte County Sheriff's Office, where she couldn't get through. She learned Riley's house burned down and started getting anxious. Then she did a Google search using words like, "missing people in Paradise," and found the Facebook group.

On Nov. 27, Elliot posted a message to the group saying she couldn't find her cousin. Within minutes, Kosmakos was on the case. Kosmakos, a stay-at-home mom and part-time administrative assistant, said she found Riley's cellphone number after a few quick online searches.

"By 3 p.m. the next day, I was in touch with my cousin," said Elliot, who learned her cousin was safe and was renting an apartment near Sacramento.

"I couldn't believe they found her in less than 24 hours," Elliot said.

The angels say they all have personal reasons for doing the work they do.

"I was in a foster home myself. I really don't have much family," said Collins. "So, for me, I get joy connecting others to their family."

Good Housekeeping

By **NORMAN WINTER**
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Black Friday turned out to be a real shocker for me. It wasn't for store fighting, super discounts on large TV's or digital cameras but, instead, it was the rush to buy poinsettias. I was surprised that poinsettias made the 'lost leader' list, similarly, to the 39-cents-per-pound turkey at Thanksgiving. Secondly, I was just as shocked that the consumers were willing to wait outside the store at 5 a.m. to buy huge quantities of poinsettias.

I bet Joel Roberts Poinsett our first Ambassador to Mexico, the one credited with first bringing them into the United States in 1825 would have been absolutely stunned. All I can say is 'yippee yahoo' because that means the door is opened up even wider for maximizing their use during the long Christmas season which I might add seems to be getting longer every year.

The last few years I have had the opportunity to be a part of maximizing their use in massive displays created at the Coastal Georgia Botanical Gardens as part of their December Nights and Holiday Lights celebration. The use of poinsettias was different every year and always brought out the cameras.

No matter how you choose to use them, in combination with Red Delicious and Granny Smith apples like in Savannah, festively arranged on the hearth and fireplace mantel, or around the tree, the poinsettia is one of the most treasured Christmas traditions.

The tradition started long ago when they were called Flores de

Noche Buena (flowers of the holy night) because of the legend of Pepita and Pedro. The story told long ago was that a little girl in Mexico, named Pepita, and her cousin, Pedro, were on their way to church in honor of the Christ child. Pepita was poor and had

no money for gifts.

On the way to church she picked a bouquet of wildflowers, and as she laid them lovingly on the altar, they turned into beautiful poinsettias, hence the name Flores de Noche Buena.

The colorful parts of a poinsettia

are actually modified leaves known as bracts. The true flowers are the small, yellow buttons in the centers of the bracts. The traditional color may be red but colors and varieties today have reached staggering numbers. One recent University trial

showed 212 varieties on display.

If you are like me, we are similar kids in a candy store when it comes to poinsettias; we love them all and need three of each. Its kind of like give me some Monet, Ice Punch, ooh that elegant Vision of Grandeur, then I need 7 of the Carousel and 5 of the Winter Rose.

You quickly see the dilemma both for the shopper and the greenhouse producer with hundreds of varieties, there is just no way one could grow them all. What is important is that you shop for poinsettias now. Poinsettias can hold their color, way past Christmas if you shop wisely.

Look for plants with fully mature, thoroughly colored and expanded bracts, and small green flower buds. Select plants with dark green foliage down to the soil line. This indicates a healthy root system. As a rule of thumb, poinsettias should be 2 1/2 times bigger than their pots. In other words, a 15- to 18-inch-tall plant looks best in a 6-inch container.

Durable plants promise weeks of enjoyment. Look for strong, stiff stems, good leaf and bract retention, and no signs of wilting, breaking or drooping. Carefully inspect packaged poinsettias before purchasing them. With the busy holiday season, forgetting to water can be disastrous for a poinsettia. Feel the soil, and water when it is dry to the touch.

Don't be shy use poinsettias throughout the home and don't be surprised when the family says Mom this was the prettiest Christmas ever.

Norman Winter, horticulturist, garden speaker and author of, "Tough-as-Nails Flowers for the South" and "Captivating Combinations: Color and Style in the Garden." Follow him on Facebook @NormanWinterTheGardenGuy.



On Gardening: The *poinsettia*
a treasured Christmas tradition



TNS
Ice Punch poinsettia dazzles with its variegated foliage.



TNS
Mass poinsettias for a showy display.



TNS
Use poinsettias throughout the home for the most beautiful Christmas ever.

TNS
The wavy flowers of the poinsettia variety Carousel are uniquely stunning.



Life & Style

Three of Prince's '00s-era albums to be reissued by Sony in February

By CHRIS RIEMENSCHNEIDER
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

Two of Prince's best album

of the 2000s and one more will be reissued in February by Sony Legacy Recordings, another extension of the deal

struck this summer between Sony and the late Minnesota music icon's estate to oversee much of his post-Warner

Bros. music.

The fairly well-received records "Musicology" and "3121," from 2004 and 2006, respectively, will each be issued on vinyl for the first time Feb. 8 — including a collectable purple vinyl edition — alongside new digital and CD releases. These new editions won't feature any remastering or bonus tracks but will serve as reminders he still made some excellent albums into this millennium.

"Musicology," in particular, was a retro-soulful and timelessly funky collection with such key tunes

as the romantic gem "Call My Name" and the title track, each of which earned a Grammy Award. Named after his address in Los Angeles at the time, "3121" landed the minor hit "Black Sweat" and became his first record to go No. 1 in Billboard since 1989's "Batman" soundtrack.

The third title in the reissue trio will be "Planet Earth," which Prince famously gave out for free with editions of the national U.K. newspaper in 2007 ahead of his 21-night run at O2 Arena in London. The record was never re-

ally given a proper release as a traditional album and included appearances by the Revolution's Wendy Melvoin and Lisa Coleman as well as Sheila E.

Sony is moving rather swiftly and creatively to promote its portion of Prince's catalog. Warner Bros. instead focused this year on the previously unreleased "Piano & a Microphone 1983" album. Word is the Warners team is now working toward an expanded reissue edition of the classic "1999" double-album from 1982, but no official announcement has been made.

'Modern Family's' Sarah Hyland had second kidney transplant

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"Modern Family" star Sarah Hyland says she had a second kidney transplant last year, replacing a kidney from her father with another from her brother.

Hyland detailed her lifelong health struggles in an interview in Self magazine, and tweeted Monday that she hopes it "spreads awareness of organ donation" and "brings a sense of support" to the "beautiful warriors" in the chronically ill community.

The 28-year old, who has

appeared on the ABC sitcom "Modern Family" since she was 18, was born with kidney dysplasia, which causes cysts to grow on underdeveloped kidneys.



Hyland

She received her father's kidney in 2012, but four years later her body began rejecting it, and she underwent a series of treatments that included months of dialysis that she squeezed in around

"Modern Family" shoots, but it became increasingly clear that the kidney would have to be replaced.

"When a family member

gives you a second chance at life, and it fails, it almost feels like it's your fault," Hyland said. "It's not. But it does."

The family learned Hyland's younger brother Ian was a match. She was reticent to take another organ from a loved one. He insisted.

"I only cared about Sarah knowing that I had her back and that she was going to be OK," 23-year-old Ian Hyland told Self. "I probably would have insisted on donating even if I wasn't a match."

Hyland had the second transplant in September of 2017, and is struggling to adjust to her changed body, but overall is recovering well.

Shameik Moore slings webs as 1st biracial Spider-Man in film

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A journal entry penned when Shameik Moore was a teenager laid out one of his dreams—to play Spider-Man on the big screen. That dream is now partially realized with Moore serving as the voice of the webslinger in the new animated film, "Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse."

Moore plays Miles Morales, a biracial Brooklyn teen who gains an array of superpowers after being bitten by a radioactive spider. Morales melds his superpowers, including enhanced hearing, wall-crawling and camouflage abilities—while putting his own stamp on the character. Gone are Peter's Parker's blue-and-red outfits, replaced by a red-and-black version and a cool pair of sneakers.

Moore's ambition was to be the face of Spider-Man in a live-action film, something he still hopes will happen. But for now, he's happy to serve as Morales' voice in "Into the Spider-Verse," which is in theaters Friday and has already drawn rave reviews.

"The story now is coming out through me. So with great power, comes great responsibility," he said, referencing an oft-repeated line from the Spider-verse of film and comics. "It's a black Spider-Man and he looks like me."

"It's a new time in Hollywood," said Moore, who is 23 and of Jamaican descent. "Not only are we in live-action superhero movies, but they are animating us now," he said. "I'm honored to be the first black Spider-Man (in a film)."

"Into the Spider-Verse" last week was nominated by the Golden Globes for best animated film, and has generated some Oscar buzz that could lead to a superhero showdown with "Incredibles 2" and "Ralph Breaks the Internet." It boasts a 99 percent rating on Rotten Tomatoes and has drawn rave reviews for its visual style and deftly managing of a storyline that features six distinct versions of Spider-Man. The multiple Spideys team up to thwart a plot by Marvel supervillain Kingpin, who hatches a plan to wreak havoc across multiple realities.

Moore almost had a divergent path to becoming Spider-Man. He first auditioned to play the webslinger years ago with other multiracial candidates, but the role of Spider-Man and his alter-ego Peter Parker ultimately went to Tom Holland, who made his debut in "Captain America: Civil War," anchored the stand-alone film "Spider-Man: Homecoming" and had a key role in "Avengers: Infinity War."

The actor's fascination with Morales started after seeing Donald Glover voice the character on Disney's "Ultimate Spider-Man" a few years ago. The character was introduced in comic books in 2011 after President Barack Obama and Glover, inspired by Morales' creation, sported Spider-Man pajamas on a dif-

ferent TV show.

Moore recalled how director Rick Famuyiwa, who cast him in the 2015 film "Dope," considered him to play Morales in a live-action film, but he said those plans were scrapped after "somebody in power got switched around" and decided to make it an animated film.

Producers of "Spider-Verse" said they went the animation route because computer graphic illustrators could mimic comic book movements better. With the process of blending CGI and hand-drawn animation, it took three years to develop "Into the Spider-Verse."

"Our animation is so exaggerated that the best stuntman in world couldn't do it," said Chris Miller, who co-produced the film with Phil Lord, one of its co-writers. The film-making duo is known for "21 Jump Street" and "The Lego Movie." "At least in this film, he can move the same way as the comics. If anything, this doesn't box out a live-action Miles movie. It actually brings more awareness to it."

Moore says he hopes it happens sooner than later.

"I'm very physical. I don't need the mask to do flips," he said. "I won't need a stunt double. ... But if they take like six, seven years, I'll be older and won't be able to play it."

Regardless of awards or box offices success, "Spider-Verse" cast members believe the film will inspire audiences.



Moore

IN CELEBRATION OF HIS NEW LIFE



†RICARDO NICOLAS REYES (aka...Edeng, Bata)

Born on the 25th of June 1951,
was called by his Creator on the 6th of December 2018
to join his parents, the late Agapito Reyes and Arsenia Nicolas
in eternal peace and happiness.

In his new life, he will be interceding for and missed by
Bernardita Guban (spouse), Jeanylyn (daughter),
Marlon H. Vallejos (son-in-law), Rhine (son)
and Marlon Joaquin Vallejos (grandson).

Daily rosary every 5:00p.m. is held at
Saipan Computer Services and will continue until
Saturday, 15th of December 2018.

He was laid to rest at Himalayang Palanyag of Parañaque City,
after a Catholic Mass at the Parañaque Cathedral
at 2:00p.m. on Tuesday, the 11th of December 2018.

Your thoughts and prayers are most appreciated.

-The family-

Stormy Daniels protests law raising age for exotic dancers

BATON ROUGE, La. (AP)—A porn actress who claimed to have had an affair with President Donald Trump joined other women to voice opposition to a law that raises the age requirement for exotic dancers in Louisiana strip clubs from 18 to 21.

Stormy Daniels returned to her hometown of Baton Rouge on Sunday and joined dozens of other women voicing opposition to what they consider a “sexist law,” the Advocate reported.

Daniels and more than 50 other people, mostly women

who work in New Orleans strip clubs, stood outside the State Capitol as gusts of wind whipped past. Some struggled to keep control of their handwritten signs, which displayed a variety of messages from “Let us dance” to “Feminist power” and “My body pays taxes!!!”

The state legislature voted in 2016 to increase the minimum legal age for exotic dancers from 18 to 21. The 2016 law says “entertainers whose breasts or buttocks are exposed to view” in alcoholic beverage establishments must be no younger than 21. Louisiana

outlaws full nudity for strippers in establishments licensed to serve alcohol, no matter what their age.

The 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled last month that Louisiana can enforce the new age requirement, reversing an early ruling that deemed it unenforceable in response to a lawsuit filed by three young women who said the law had cost them the lucrative income they had as strip club dancers and unconstitutionally squelched their First Amendment rights to freedom of expression.

“Had this law been in effect when I was 18 and started dancing here in Louisiana, I would have missed out on many of the opportunities that I have been afforded,” said Daniels, whose real name is Stephanie Clifford. “This is an unconstitutional law. It eliminates the right of an adult woman to freely choose her occupation and express herself.”

Although people 18 and over are often treated as adults under state law, Louisiana lawmakers have said they wanted the age restriction to help shield young women

from the drugs and sex-trafficking sometimes associated with strip clubs.

“But common sense will tell you it’s gonna have the opposite effect,” Daniels said. “Many of these women who work this very legal occupation will be forced out of their jobs, unable to support their children (and) unable to make tuition payments.”

Critics also argue the change will push women into pursuing more dangerous sources of income. They say

that if people are old enough to join the military and consent to sex with another adult, they should also be allowed to perform exotic dance.

“Lawmakers, the media, the public—they tend to infantilize (us) because they don’t approve of our choices (and) they make laws without our consent,” said Sable Mongold, 30. “But there’s a lot of humanity behind the heels and glitter ... and we will not retreat into the shadows any longer.”

Beyonce performs at pre-wedding party in India

Beyonce brought her star power to a pre-wedding party for the daughter of India’s richest mogul.

The 37-year-old singer performed Sunday and sang some of her hits such as “Crazy In Love” and “Perfect.” Guests included Hillary Clinton and a host of Bollywood stars in the historic Indian city of Udaipur.

Beyonce posted a photo on

Instagram of one of her outfits and a video giving a sneak peak of her performance.

Mukesh Ambani’s daughter, Isha, is marrying Anand Piramal on Wednesday. (AP)

In this Sunday, Dec. 9, 2018 photo, singer Beyonce arrives at the Udaipur airport in Rajasthan, India.



Spice Girl Mel B cancels event after severe injury, surgery

LONDON (AP)—Spice Girl Melanie Brown has suffered an unexplained injury in New York that required surgery to prevent her from losing her hand.

Brown said online Monday she needed three hours of surgery to repair damage to her hand. She also said she suffered two broken ribs.

She posted a photograph on Instagram and thanked doctors and nurses for their “wonderful” work but did not explain

how the accident occurred.

Brown cancelled a book signing event in New York and apologized to fans who had bought tickets.

“Ohhh the pain, but I’m in super safe hands with the care of everyone here at the hospital!!!! Thank you all for understanding, I love you all,” she said.

The Spice Girls are planning a reunion tour without the services of Victoria Beckham.

Kirk Douglas celebrates 102nd birthday



LOS ANGELES (AP)—Actor Kirk Douglas got to celebrate his 102nd birthday with a special video message from his daughter-in-law.

Catherine Zeta-Jones shared a sweet tribute in an Instagram video Sunday. The actress and wife of Michael Douglas wrote, “Happy 102nd birthday to the most beautiful man. We love you Kirk.”

The video featured photos of Douglas throughout his movie career and with family members.

Douglas has been a Hollywood mainstay for decades and is perhaps best known for starring in the 1960 drama “Spartacus.”

In this Nov. 6, 2018, file photo, actor Michael Douglas, second left, poses with his father actor Kirk Douglas, right, wife Catherine Zeta-Jones and son Cameron Douglas following a ceremony honoring him with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame in Los Angeles. AP

Man who claimed Howard Hughes inheritance dies in Nevada

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Melvin Dummar died never seeing the \$156 million that he argued for decades that eccentric billionaire Howard Hughes unexpectedly bequeathed to him for rescuing him on a desert road and driving him nearly three hours to Las Vegas in 1967.

Dummar, whose story was depicted in the 1980 film “Melvin and Howard,” died Sunday under hospice care in rural Nevada, said Nye County Sheriff Sharon Wehry. He was 74.

His brother, Ray Dummar said his brother battled cancer for many years and quit referring to the Hughes estate and the handwritten document after losing his last legal battle 10 years ago.

The so-called “Mormon will” was said to have also named The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints as beneficiary of \$156 million—a 1/16 share of the Hughes estate—when he died in 1976.

“I’ve been called everything from a crook to a forger,” Dummar told the AP in 2007 in Utah, where he once owned a gas station and later ran a business selling frozen meat, salmon and big pies.

“I don’t care what people say—as long as they get the facts straight,” he said.

Jurors and judges decided he lied. A U.S. appeals court

in 2008 affirmed a Nevada state court jury’s decision 30 years earlier that found the will was a fake.

Dummar maintained that he found Hughes in late December 1967, face-down and bloody on a dirt road not far from a brothel near Lida, Nevada, and drove him nearly 190 miles (306 kilometers) to Las Vegas before giving him some pocket change and dropping him off behind the Sands Hotel.

Dummar’s story about finding an unshaved Hughes with long stringy hair and baggy clothes was as bizarre as Hughes, an aviation and movie mogul and business tycoon who spent his final years in seclusion, his hair and fingernails grown long.

“On the way to Las Vegas, he told me who he was, but I didn’t believe him,” Dummar told the AP in 2006. “I thought he was just a bum or a prospector or something.”

Dummar said he later came to believe it was Hughes, and that about eight years later a handwritten will was delivered to his gas station in Utah.

Dummar said it was addressed to the president of the Mormon church. He said he steamed it open to read the contents before taking it to the church’s headquarters and leaving it on a secretary’s desk.

Drummer suspected of embezzling \$750K from charity concert

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Prosecutors say the former musical director for the United Nations and Arsenio Hall’s TV show has been arrested on suspicion of embezzling \$750,000 from an overseas charity concert for homeless children.

The U.S. Attorney’s office says Monday that Robin DiMaggio could face wire fraud charges. It wasn’t known if he has an attorney.

Prosecutors say DiMaggio was wired \$750,000 after

agreeing to help the Peace for You Peace for Me Foundation to organize a concert in Bulgaria.

Officials say instead of putting the money in escrow to pay artists, the 47-year-old used it to pay personal expenses and buy his ex-wife a house.

If convicted, DiMaggio could face 20 years in prison.

In his career as a drummer, DiMaggio has played on albums by Paul Simon and Diana Ross.

Study: Social media surpasses newspapers as news source

NEW YORK (AP)—A survey says Americans today are more likely to get news from social media web sites than newspapers.

The Pew Research Center said Monday that 20 percent

of Americans cited social media as a frequent news source, compared to 16 percent that credited newspapers. It's the

first time since Pew has found sites like Facebook and Twitter outpacing newspapers.

Pew has been asking about

news consumption, with a slight change in wording, since 1991. That year, 56 percent of Americans said newspapers

when asked where they had gotten their news yesterday.

The survey also found that 81 percent of people aged 65

and over often get news from television, compared to only 16 percent of people aged 18 to 29.

Imagine Dragons to perform during halftime of CFP champ game

Grammy Award winners Imagine Dragons will perform at halftime of the College Football Playoff championship game on Jan. 7.

ESPN and Interscope Records announced the performance Monday.

For the second consecutive season, the College Football Playoff will feature a Super Bowl-style halftime performance for the television audience. The school bands will still perform at halftime of the game in Levi's Stadium in Santa Clara, California.

Imagine Dragons will headline the halftime telecast and perform from Treasure Island in San Francisco Bay. The band's song "Natural" was used by ESPN as the theme for much of the network's college football coverage and promotions. Imagine Dragons won a Grammy in 2014 for its song "Radioactive." The band will perform several songs in the halftime set, including tracks from its recently released fourth album, "Origins." The halftime concert will be free to attend but limited to those who secure passes. Details on how to do that will be announced at a later date.

Last season, Kendrick Lamar performed at halftime of the College Football Playoff championship game in Atlanta. (AP)

DuVernay, Witherspoon and others join for Time's Up auction

Ava DuVernay, Reese Witherspoon, Geena Davis and Kerry Washington are among the Hollywood figures teaming up to mark the one-year anniversary of Time's Up with a celebrity auction to benefit the group's legal fund.

The Time's Up campaign kicked off at the Golden Globes in January. To date, the legal fund has raised more than \$22 million.

Among the items on auction will be an opportunity to attend a post-production session with director DuVernay on her Netflix miniseries "Central Park 5," a coffee date with Davis and meet-and-greets with Witherspoon at the "Big Little Lies"



This combination photo shows, from left, director Ava DuVernay, and actresses Margot Robbie, Kerry Washington and Reese Witherspoon who are teaming up to mark the one-year anniversary of Time's Up with a celebrity auction to benefit the group's legal fund. To date it has raised more than \$22 million.

season 2 premiere, or Washington at her Broadway show,

"American Son." The Time's Up Legal De-

fense Fund says that to date it has connected more than

3,750 women and men to legal resources. (AP)

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Court TV network is being revived after decade away

NEW YORK (AP)—Court TV is being revived, after dying in 2007 when its supply of high-profile trials ended. Katz Networks said Monday it will start the network again in May, and already has commitments to show it in about half of the American homes with television service. The 24-hour network will be devoted to coverage of trials. Katz, which is a division of the E.W. Scripps Co., has acquired programming and intellectual property from the old network. Court TV was popular in the 1990s when the O.J. Simpson and Menendez brothers trial absorbed attention, but was folded and turned into the crime-oriented network truTV. Jonathan Katz, who's presi-

dent and CEO of Katz Television, noted the popularity of crime-oriented programming and said there's a void in the marketplace for trial coverage.

Crew member of Starz series 'Power' hit, killed at shoot

NEW YORK (AP)—A production assistant on the Starz network drama series "Power" has been struck and killed by a vehicle while setting up traffic cones for a film production in Brooklyn. Police say 63-year-old Pedro Jimenez, of Manhattan, was pronounced dead at a hospital following the accident just before 4:30 a.m. Monday in the Boerum Hill neighborhood. Police say the 64-year-old driver of the vehicle remained at the scene. There have been no arrests. A Starz spokeswoman says that

the network is "deeply saddened" by the death and that thoughts are with the Jimenez family. Production on the series has been suspended. It isn't clear when production will resume. "Power" stars Omari Hardwick as a drug kingpin and nightclub owner.

'The Favourite' leads film nominees for Critics' Choice

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"The Favourite" leads the field of films with 14 nominations for the 24th annual Critics' Choice Awards. "Black Panther" was close behind with 12 nominations. Three TV series are tied with five nominations each. The Broadcast Film Critics Association and the Broadcast Television Journalists Association announced the nominees Monday. Nomi-

nations for "The Favourite" include: best picture; best actress and best actress in a comedy for Olivia Colman; and best supporting actress for both Emma Stone and Rachel Weisz. The film is about two cousins vying for the attention of Queen Anne. "The Americans," "The Assassination Of Gianni Versace: American Crime Story" and "Escape at Dannemora" garnered five nominations each in the television category. HBO and Netflix are tied with 20 nominations each. The Critics' Choice Awards will be presented Jan. 13 on the CW Network.

Meek Mill, Fat Joe attend DJ Khaled's Miami birthday bash

MIAMI BEACH, Fla. (AP)—Meek Mill, Busta Rhymes and Fat Joe were

among the rappers who came out to celebrate DJ Khaled's birthday at an over-the-top party at the Perez Art Museum to close out Art Basel in Miami Beach. The Haute Living party celebrated birthdays for both DJ Khaled and his wife Nicole with a 60-person dinner Sunday night. Swizz Beatz gave a special DJ set, getting guests pumped up when he played "This Is How We Do It." He toasted the birthday couple, saying they "came from nothing and stay working hard." Cuba Gooding Jr., Larsa Pippen, Jeff Gordon, Trina, Jeezy, Jadakiss and 21 Savage were among the guests dancing, toasting and eating cake as they overlooked views of Biscayne Bay. DJ Khaled even received a sparkly \$106,000 watch as a gift.

Man retiring from the military deploys new rules in marriage

DEAR ABBY: My husband of 10 years is in the process of retiring from the military and is now re-evaluating "procedures" and "policies" of everything—including our marriage. I'm trying to respect his needs in an effort to help him make sense of things. However, there are times when I feel some of his new rules are hurtful or harmful and need to be negotiated or evaluated. (By the way, in general, I do not encourage or support the idea of "rules" in marriage aside from fidelity; communication should be the rule in my opinion, but I digress.)

His latest rule is that I need to be covered when getting ready in the morning ("It's not proper to be so comfortable naked, and if you respect me, you would do as I ask"). He said he thinks I look amazing now, but then he added: "Think about when you are your grandmother's age; you won't be pleasant to look at."

As his partner, I feel we should make each other feel comfortable in the buff, and it's harmful to ask our partner to cover up for any reason in the sanctity of our home. We have no children and live alone, and I have always gotten ready in the mornings this way, behind closed doors, where no one but my husband can see me. Abby, can you guide us to resolution on this matter?

NOTHING TO HIDE IN GEORGIA

DEAR NOTHING: As a military man, your husband is used to rules and structure, which are necessary in that environment. This, however, is civilian life. Before allowing him to make any more rules or institute a change in dress code (undress code), allow me to "guide" you directly to the office of a licensed marriage counselor because, unless there is something you have omitted from your letter, your husband is a mile off base.

DEAR ABBY: My mother and her brother are buried in a family graveyard. He is on the upper side. It was understood by both families that I would be buried next to my mother when I died. My uncle's grandson recently passed away and, without saying a word about it to our family, my cousin had him buried next to my mother. She said the space beside my mother was more desirable than the one on my uncle's side.

I'm so upset I can't sleep, and I don't know if I should pay to have the deceased moved to my uncle's side of the graveyard or just let him lay there. I feel beyond betrayed, and I will never speak to this vile woman again. She said I am overreacting. Am I?

CAN'T SLEEP IN THE SOUTH

DEAR CAN'T SLEEP: While your feelings are under-

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



standable, and I don't blame you for being upset, to let this take over your life would be a mistake. It couldn't hurt to inquire at the cemetery about having your cousin's corpse moved, although I'm not sure it can be done without the consent of his next of kin. If moving his body is not possible, please remember that when you are gone, your spirit will join with your mother's regardless of where your earthly remains reside.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Sound booster

4 Active person

8 Suffix with song or gab

12 Take to court

13 "By the power vested in..."

14 Annoys

15 Balloon filler

16 There-and-back journey

18 Stuff sort

20 Feed-bag bit

21 Computer brand

24 Actress Fox

28 Intellectually stimulating act

32 Takeout order?

33 Assoc.

34 Wise ones

36 One-time link

37 Fibs

DOWN

39 Traveler's digression

41 Finished

43 Conks out

44 Small batteries

46 Cartoon duck

50 School excursion

55 Old Olds

56 Aviation prefix

57 Car

58 Pac. counter-part

59 Campus VIP

60 Oboe insert

61 Tibetan bovine

DOWN

1 Now, in a memo

2 Naturalist John

3 Lima's land

4 Calls the shots

5 Lennon's love

6 Ostrich's kin

7 Nevada city

8 Like some sheets

9 Mess up

10 Enjoy Vail

11 Recipe abbr.

17 Weir

19 June honoree

22 Historic periods

23 Stiff

25 Equipment

26 Choir voices

27 Tide variety

28 Golf target

29 Ireland

30 Mellowed

31 Mani counter-part

35 Bean container

38 Spring, for one

40 Airport screening org.

42 "— Kapital"

45 Rating unit

47 Unravel

48 Greek salad cheese

49 Egg part

50 Scoundrel

51 Grant's foe

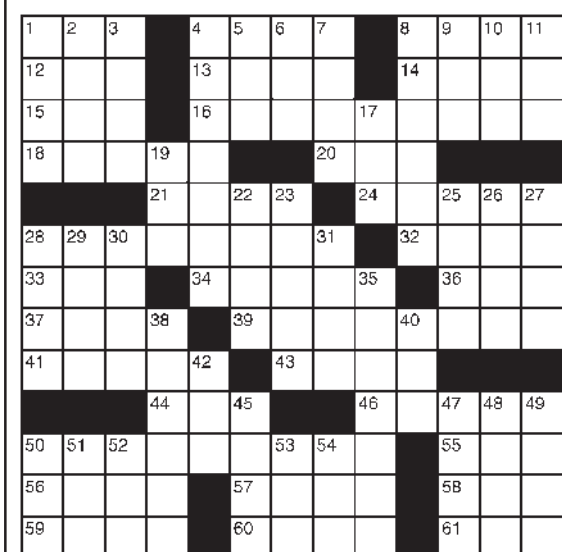
52 Coach Par-seghian

53 Wish undone

54 Mineral suffix

Solution time: 23 mins.

Yesterday's answer 12-12



STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Mayim Bialik, 43; Madchen Amick, 48; Regina Hall, 48; Jennifer Connelly, 48.

Happy Birthday: Memories will surface urging you to reconnect with your past and those you haven't seen for some time. Going back in time will give way to closure and the ability to use the experiences you have had to help you engage in new beginnings. Use your charm to encourage those you love to share your journey and to grow with you. Your numbers are 6, 10, 17, 24, 32, 38, 47.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Do your best to help. Pitching in will ward off criticism and complaints. Learn from those with more experience; they will open up a passageway to the success you crave. Personal change should be looked at carefully before you begin. ★★★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Put some thought into the relationships you share with others. Consider what you can do to make life better for those going through a tough time. What you share will bring you more joy than what you give. Live, love, laugh. ★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Tidy up loose ends and you'll enjoy the remainder of the month. Don't trust anyone else to take care of your responsibilities for you. Be open about what you want, how you feel and what you are willing to do. ★★★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Let's get creative and end the year on a high note. Step up and offer solutions. You'll be

able to transform some of the difficulties you face into accomplishments you can be proud of. Romance is on the rise. ★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Speed things up a bit and you will accomplish all you set out to do. Spend time with your lover, plan activities with youngsters or shop for little treasures you want to share or give to others. ★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): A good plan and a steady pace will help you keep the peace. If someone overreacts, keep moving forward. What you accomplish and the changes you make will have a positive impact on your life when you finish what you start. ★★★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Participate and explore new possibilities. You may not please everyone, but it's time to enjoy life with people who share your interests and your opinions. Don't miss out to avoid a dispute with someone who doesn't know how to have fun. ★★★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Communicate to avoid a misunderstanding. Don't let an emotional incident at home ruin your day. Get out and pick up something special for someone you love. You don't have to spend a lot; it's the thought that counts. ★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Take a deep breath and follow your heart. It's OK to walk away and say no. Take the high road and refuse to let anyone lead you down a path that does not feel right or doesn't sit well with you. ★★★★★

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Personal gains look promising. Don't let someone interfere with your plans by taking over. A physical change you make will draw attention and compliments. Romance will improve your personal life and make you feel good regarding prospects. ★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Make a point of taking care of your chores and responsibilities yourself. A change of pace or environment will do you good. Recognizing what you have will get you in the spirit of giving to those who are without. ★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Sign up to help out in your community. What you learn about those who have fallen on hard times will help you appreciate people from all walks of life. An unusual relationship will develop with someone you least expect. ★★★

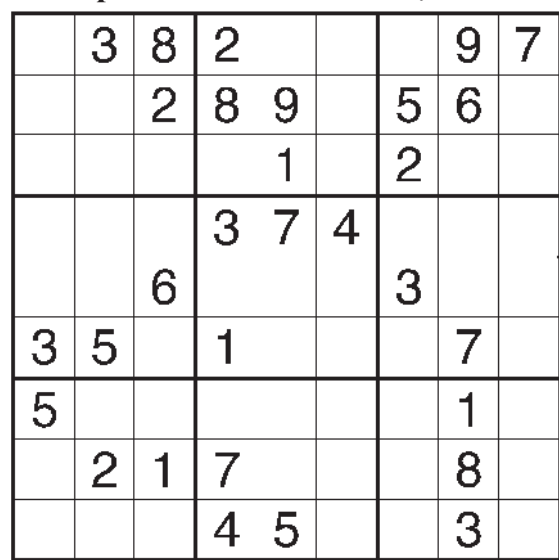
Birthday Baby: You are charming, sincere and creative. You are unique and adaptable.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

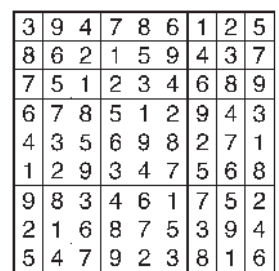


Difficulty Level ★★ ★

12/12

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer



WONDERWORD

By DAVID CUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

BACHELORETTTE PARTIES

Solution: 6 letters

S R M E K A C P U C H E E R S
Q Y E P B A L L O O N S O N G
U R R L I M A I M G G N I S Y
A E L O T R B M N D A P P I P
D N O V R U T I O S L R I G P
E I T E Z O B D H V E N N O A
C W A Z N B N V A N I S K G H
O G A M U T I O I O A E E N E
R E L L S L I S H G R T E I R
A T C R L E U A E F U K M R U
T A O E E O D V R T O I E E C
I W H T M N S I U A M D X P I
O A O I R A N A R O A O I M N
N Y L M L I F A S B L O C A A
S E Z I R P K A B H G F O P M

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12/12

Alcohol, Balloons, Banner, Bridesmaid, Butler, Buzz, Cheers, Clubbing, Cupcake, Decorations, Film, Food, Getaway, Girls, Glamour, Happy, Karaoke, Las Vegas, Limousine, Love, Maid of Honor, Manicure, Merlot, Mexico, Miami, Mimosa, Movie, Nashville, Pampering, Pink, Pins, Poker, Prizes, Road Trip, Sash, Sing, Song, Squad, Tiara, Toys, Tutu, Winery
Yesterday's Answer: Marina
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ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION. : CIVIL ACTION
Plaintiff, : NO. 07-419
:- :
JOHN KITALONG SIKYANG and :
MERCEDES JONES CASTRO, :
Defendants. :
FOURTH AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on October 9, 2012, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot 045 A 12, situated in As Matusi, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 944 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 045 A 002 dated July 12, 1989, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 90-1670, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.
Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, December 14, 2018, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at the Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.
Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.
DATED, this 3rd day of November, 2018.
MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
MVA-RFP-19-2013**

Submission/Closing Date: February 19, 2019 Time: 3:00 p.m.

For: Global Branding and Marketing Strategy

Submit sealed proposals to: Marianas Visitors Authority
Procurement Office
San Jose Professional Building
Beach Rd., San Jose
P.O. Box 500861
Saipan, MP 96950

Interested parties may pick up the Scope of Work on or after **November 29, 2018, at the Marianas Visitors Authority Office, San Jose Professional Building, Beach Road, San Jose, Saipan**, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. Proposals submitted from individuals outside the Commonwealth must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or certified courier services by **February 19, 2019** and must be received within seven (7) working days of that date. Proposers from outside the Commonwealth must notify the MVA in writing of their intent to submit a proposal in order to receive the additional seven (7) days for the receipt of the actual Proposal Documents. Participants outside the **Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands** must submit a **Notice of Intent** by any mode of written communication including facsimile at +1-670-664-3237 or email to itorres@mymarianas.com, and must be received by 3 p.m. Chamorro Standard Time on **February 12, 2019**.

All questions regarding this RFP must be sent to Judy Torres at itorres@mymarianas.com or faxed to +1-670-664-3237, **no later than 3 p.m. Chamorro Standard Time on January 14, 2019**.

/s/ Marian Aldan-Pierce /s/ Christopher A. Concepcion
Chairperson, Board of Directors Managing Directors

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 19-008 Opening Date: **Wednesday, October 17, 2018**
Closing Date: **Wednesday, December 12, 2018**

**Human Resources Manager
(Notice of CLOSURE)**

Duties: Under the direct supervision of the Executive Director or his/her designee. Supervises staff to include: prioritizing and assigning work; conducting performance evaluations; ensuring staff is trained; ensuring that employees follow policies and procedures; maintaining a healthy and safe working environment; and, making hiring, termination, and disciplinary recommendations. Manages the functions of assigned unit/designated program, which includes planning, coordinating, administering, and evaluating programs, projects, processes, procedures, systems, standards, and/or services. Ensures compliance with organizational and Federal, Commonwealth, and local laws, regulations, codes, and/or standards. Serves as a liaison with internal departments, officials, agencies, partners, contractors and other external organizations, groups and representatives. Serves as a representative at a variety of meetings, public events, on committees, and/or other related events regarding services, programs, or projects. Researches, reviews, interprets, analyzes and prepares a variety of information, data, and reports; provides quality control and assurance of assigned function and services; recommends and implements policies and procedures to improve operational effectiveness and provide enhancements to services or programs. Manages assigned budget and provides input to the annual budget development process. Prepares cost estimates and budget recommendations. Monitors, administers and controls budget allocation and authorizes expenditures. Assists in planning, developing, recommending and implementing goals, objectives, policies, procedures and standards. Coordinates operational and program efforts in alignment with goals and objectives of assigned area of responsibility. Planning, overseeing and providing human resources operations, support and activities; Providing coaching and recommendations to management and staff regarding personnel needs and issues; Working with upper management and legal counsel regarding disciplinary actions; Providing guidance and support related to employment processes and programs. Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

LOCATION: Administration, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
SALARY: \$56,439.00 to \$74,470.00 per annum (Commensurate with Qualification and Experience, Exempt)
CONTRACT: Two (2) Years, subject to renewal
POSITION(S): One (1)

Minimum Requirements: Bachelor's Degree in a directly related field and 5 years of professional experience in the assigned field including 2 years of leadership experience. Experience in a utility company a plus. Knowledge of: Applicable Federal, Commonwealth and local laws, codes, regulations and/or ordinances; Managerial principles, practices and techniques; Principles, practices, methods and techniques of assigned operational area or function; Budgeting principles; Contract administration principles; Customer service principles; Modern office equipment; Modern office technology. Skills in: Interpreting and applying applicable laws, codes, regulations and standards; Managing, monitoring, training and evaluating staff; Prioritizing, coordinating, allocating resources and assigning work; Planning, organizing and implementing programs and services; Establishing goals, objectives and standards; Recommending, developing and implementing policies and procedures; Providing technical review, expertise and oversight related to assigned area; Monitoring and implementing quality, compliance and/or safety procedures and processes; Preparing contract documents; Providing contract administration; Researching and analyzing information; Resolving problems and conflict; Developing budget and monitoring compliance; Preparing reports, presentations and other related materials; Delivering presentations and training; Overseeing customer service delivery; Serving as a liaison and technical representative of assigned area; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. Applicants may be tested. Subject to pre-employment drug test.

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All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

9ALL5

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Cashman says Yankees interested in Machado



LAS VEGAS (AP)—Yankees general manager Brian Cashman says he has been talking about Manny Machado with the infielder's agent.

New York shortstop Didi Gregorius is expected to miss at least half of next season while recovering from Tommy John surgery, leaving the team in search of an infielder.

"I've had several conversations with Dan Lozano about Manny Machado," Cashman said Monday at the winter meetings. "So we are we are definitely focused in the marketplace on those areas of need and he, obviously, is available and solves that area of need. So, not going to deny we've had a conversation. Or two."

Cashman said last month that Machado would have to explain his comments that he isn't "Johnny Hustle" and his failure to run hard on the bases, which became glaring in the postseason. Cashman would not say whether he plans to meet with Machado.

Bryce Harper, the other top free agent, appears to be of little interest to the Yankees, at least publicly. Asked whether he had met with the Las Vegas native, Cashman responded: "Are you serious?"

He then listed the outfielders on the Yankees roster: Aaron Judge, Giancarlo Stanton, Jacoby Ellsbury, Brett Gardner, Aaron Hicks and Clint Frazier. Cashman maintained he's not interested in having Harper switch positions.

"People ask about the first-base stuff and I'm sure it's potentially a possibility, but it's not something that we would play on at that level and that type of money, to play something like that at first base,"



Los Angeles Dodgers' Manny Machado hits a single in front of Boston Red Sox catcher Christian Vazquez during the fourth inning in Game 2 of the World Series baseball Wednesday, Oct. 24, 2018, in Boston.

Cashman said.

New York, in search of its first title since 2009, is interested in adding another starting pitcher to its rotation, which is projected to include Luis Severino, Masahiro Tanaka, James Paxton and CC Sabathia. The Yankees would like to reach a deal with left-hander J.A. Happ but are uncertain whether other teams will evaluate the 36-year-old left-hander more highly.

Cashman said New York thought 29-year-old left-hander Patrick Corbin was the top free agent pitcher on the market but did not think he was worth paying what Washington agreed to: a \$140 million, six-year contract.

In an era of luxury tax and revenue sharing, New York behaves far differently than it did when George Steinbrenner pursued a string of top free agents. Cashman cited a need for rigid "process and discipline" to ensure "we can be a viable contender now and hopefully a viable contender later at the same time."

"The operation that George was able to operate and navigate through is nowhere close to the one that Hal Steinbrenner has to operate and navigate through," Cashman said. "It's a convenient, easy story to write about us being different than the Boss's Yankees, but the game's completely different, too. And I think we've been operating in a different capacity because it's a whole new world order."

Teams start to show cards at winter meetings

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Deal the New York Yankees in for the Manny Machado tournament. And J.T. Realmuto? A lot of teams already are sitting at that table.

The baseball winter meetings began in earnest along the Vegas Strip on Monday, and clubs slowly started to show their cards.

Noah Syndergaard and Zack Wheeler are attracting trade interest, the Mets say. Corey Kluber and Madison Bumgarner keep popping up in swap speculation. But still no indication of where hometown slugger Bryce Harper might go.

A couple of moves got

done—speedy outfielder Billy Hamilton sprinted to the Kansas City Royals, pitcher Tyson Ross went to Detroit.

The Yankees, as usual, were on the prowl.

Always ramping up the rivalry with the champion Boston Red Sox, the Yankees linked themselves to Machado. General manager Brian Cashman said he's been talking to the infielder's agent.

"So we are definitely focused in the marketplace on those areas of need and he, obviously, is available and solves that area of need," Cashman said. "So, not going to deny we've had a conversation. Or two."

Whether that's substance or merely a smoke screen, the Yankees could use help with shortstop Didi Gregorius expected to miss at least half of next season while recovering from Tommy John surgery.

Realmuto, the prized Miami catcher, is highly coveted. "I think a lot of teams are taking to the Marlins. I would anticipate his market picking up while we're down here," new Mets GM Brodie Van Wagenen said.

Not so fast, countered Miami manager Don Mattingly.

"I look at him as part of our club," he said.

"He knows how much we

like him and what we think about him. He's handling everything fine. J.T.'s a tough kid. He's a big-time leader. It's why we love him. It's why a lot of teams love him," he said.

Maybe Realmuto gets traded before the meetings end Thursday, maybe not. In the meantime, don't expect any movement on contentious MLB-wide issues.

Sure, there's a lot of discussion about banning or limiting shifts. And plenty of debate about ways to spark offense.

But in a sign that nothing is imminent, Commissioner Rob Manfred isn't planning to attend the annual gathering.

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—The Kansas City Royals and speedy outfielder Billy Hamilton have agreed to a \$5.25 million contract for next season that includes up to \$1 million in incentives, a person familiar with the negotiations told The Associated Press on Monday.

The Royals hope that spacious Kauffman Stadium will allow Hamilton to better use his speed than the bandbox of Great American Ball Park in Cincinnati, where he spent his first six seasons with the Reds. The person who confirmed the deal spoke on condition of anonymity Monday because the deal was pending a physical.

The 28-year-old Hamilton made his big league debut in 2013, then proceeded to have four consecutive seasons in which he stole at least 50 bas-

Royals, Hamilton agree to \$5.25M contract

es. That number dipped to 34 last season, when the switch-hitting Hamilton hit .236 with four homers and 29 RBIs as the Reds' everyday center fielder.

The Reds ultimately did not tender Hamilton a contract after paying him \$4.6 million in the second year of arbitration. The Royals now control him through the 2019 season and Kansas City now has three of the top eight base-stealers in the majors last season.

The Royals were poised to head to spring training with Brett Phillips and Brian Goodwin competing for the center-field job, and both of them will still have that opportunity with Hamilton in the mix.

Phillips was acquired last

season in the trade that sent third baseman Mike Moustakas to Milwaukee for the stretch run. Much like Hamilton, the 24-year-old Phillips is an elite defensive player, but he has yet to prove much at the plate. He hit just .188 in 36 games after arriving in Kansas City. The 28-year-old Goodwin is more accomplished offensively, hitting .266 in 27 games after the Royals acquired him in a trade with Washington.

The Royals are in the midst of a massive rebuilding project after going to back-to-back World Series and winning the championship in 2015. It appears part of that rebuild involves returning to the speed-and-defense style that first allowed the long-

suffering organization to return to respectability.

Second baseman Whit Merrifield led the majors with 45 steals last season, while shortstop Adalberto Mondesi was eighth with 32 steals, despite getting time in the minors and only 275 big league at-bats.

Ross, Tigers agree on 1-year deal

In Las Vegas, Free agent right-hander Tyson Ross and the Detroit Tigers have reached a one-year deal for \$5.75 million.

The agreement came Monday at the winter meetings.

Ross went a combined 8-9 with a 4.15 ERA for San Diego and St. Louis last season. He made 22 starts for the Pa-

dres, was claimed off waivers by the Cardinals in early August and pitched nine times for them, eight in relief.

The 31-year-old Ross held righty hitters to a .176 batting average.

Ross is 43-65 with a 3.95 ERA in nine seasons. He made his debut with Oakland in 2010 and was an All-Star with San Diego in 2014.

Ross' contract includes \$250,000 in roster bonuses—\$50,000 for being with the major league team on opening day and \$100,000 each for May 1 and June 1.

Meanwhile, Atlanta Braves infielder Rio Ruiz has been claimed off waivers by the Baltimore Orioles.

The 24-year-old Ruiz played sparingly with the Braves the last three seasons and had little future with the team after the emergence of Johan Camargo and the signing of free agent Josh Donaldson.

Ruiz played a total of 72 games with Atlanta, hitting .189 with four homers and 21 RBIs. He spent most of 2018 with Triple-A Gwinnett, where he batted .269 with nine homers and 72 RBIs.

The Cincinnati Reds have claimed left-hander Robby Scott off waivers from the Boston Red Sox.

The 29-year-old reliever was 0-1 over nine relief appearances and 6 2/3 innings for Boston this year. He was 3-3 with a 1.36 ERA in 45 games for Triple-A Pawtucket, striking out 63 in 48 1/3 innings.

LeBron's Lakers edge Wade's Heat in final meeting



LOS ANGELES (AP) — LeBron James scored 28 points and the Los Angeles Lakers survived Dwyane Wade's 15-point performance in the second half of the superstars' probable final on-court meeting for a 108-105 victory over the Miami Heat on Monday night.

The game appropriately ended with James guarding Wade, who missed a difficult 3-point attempt in the waning seconds. After the buzzer sounded, and they shared a hug and a chat to close perhaps the final joint chapter of two careers that have intersected repeatedly since they entered the NBA together in 2003.

Wade and James teamed up with the Heat in 2010 to win two championships while reaching four consecutive NBA Finals, and they spent half of last season together in Cleveland.

Wade intends to retire after this season, and Staples Center sent him out of Los Angeles in style with multiple standing ovations and a tribute video in the first quarter.

James and Wade both missed big shots down the stretch, but James hit two free throws with 22.5 seconds left to stretch the Lakers' lead to three points.

Kyle Kuzma scored 33 points for the Lakers, who have won 13 of 17 overall and five straight at home.

Justise Winslow scored a career-high 28 points for Miami, hitting six 3-pointers in the third stop on the Heat's six-game road trip.

Wade's wife, Gabrielle Union, was among the fans at courtside as the high-scoring guard played 32 minutes. Wade went 0 for 5 in a scoreless first half, but still had six assists.

He got rolling in the third quarter with eight points in a flurry that recalled his heyday, and he kept up the pressure in the fourth while finishing with 10 assists and five rebounds.

Warriors 116, Timberwolves 108

In Oakland, Stephen Curry had 38 points, seven rebounds and six assists, and Golden State got the win in Draymond Green's return to the lineup.

Klay Thompson scored 26 points and Kevin Durant had 22 as Golden State prepared for Wednesday's showdown with Toronto by earning its fourth straight win. Curry went 7 for 14 from 3-point range.

Green, the 2017 NBA Defensive Player of the Year, had seven points, 10 rebounds and seven assists after being sidelined for 11 games with a right toe injury.

Karl Anthony-Towns had



Los Angeles Lakers forward LeBron James (23) hugs ex teammate and current Miami Heat player Dwyane Wade during the first half of an NBA basketball game Monday, Dec. 10, 2018, in Los Angeles.

career-high 19 points, but the Suns lost their ninth straight.

Kings 108, Bulls 89

In Chicago, De'Aaron Fox scored 23 of his 25 points in the second half, helping Sacramento rally for the win.

Fox went 8 for 11 from the field after missing each of his first five shots in the first half. Bogdan Bogdanovic and Marvin Bagley III added 16 points apiece as Sacramento closed out a 3-1 road trip.

Chicago led by as many as 14 in its ninth loss in 10 games. The Bulls were coming off a franchise-record 133-77 loss to the Boston Celtics on Saturday.

Zach LaVine led Chicago with 19 points, and Lauri Markkanen had 13.

Bucks 108, Cavaliers 92

In Milwaukee, Eric Bledsoe had 20 points and 12 rebounds, and Milwaukee made 15 3-pointers in the win.

Malcolm Brogdon scored 18 points on 8-of-12 shooting for the Bucks, who rested Giannis Antetokounmpo on the second night of back-to-back games. He was ruled out about an hour before the game with neck soreness.

Cleveland's Tristan Thompson had 12 points on 6-of-7 shooting and added six rebounds, but left in the third quarter with a left foot injury. Jaron Blossomgame had 11 points and 10 rebounds, and Larry Nance Jr. scored a team-high 16 points.

Mavericks 101, Magic 76

In Dallas, Harrison Barnes scored 19 points, rookie Jalen Brunson added a career-high 17 and the Mavericks cruised to the win.

Brunson got the start at point guard in place of injured Dennis Smith Jr. (right wrist sprain). He has scored in double figures in each of the Mavs' last three games.

Luka Doncic had 11 rebounds and a season-high nine assists to offset a 2-for-11 shooting performance, finishing with seven points. Dwight Powell had 16 points for the Mavericks.

Jonathon Simmons had a season-high 18 for the Magic and Aaron Gordon scored 10. Orlando played without Evan Fournier, who missed the game for personal reasons.

31 points and 11 rebounds for Minnesota. Derrick Rose added 21 points.

76ers 116, Pistons 102

In Philadelphia, Joel Embiid scored 24 points in his return to Philadelphia's lineup after a one-game absence.

Jimmy Butler, who had 38 points to lead Philadelphia to a 117-111 victory in Detroit on Friday, exited in the first half with a strained groin and did not return.

Luke Kennard finished with a career-high 28 points for the slumping Pistons (13-12), who have dropped five straight after five consecutive wins.

Detroit was missing Blake Griffin, 10th in the NBA in scoring. Griffin was rested after the Pistons hosted New Orleans the previous night.

Thunder 122, Jazz 113

In Oklahoma City, Paul George scored 31 points and Dennis Schroder added 23, helping Oklahoma City to the win.

Steven Adams had 22

points for Oklahoma City in the first meeting between the teams since the Jazz eliminated the Thunder in six games in the first round of last season's playoffs. Oklahoma City star Russell Westbrook was 4 for 18 from the field, but finished with 12 points, 11 rebounds and 10 assists.

Donovan Mitchell battled foul trouble much of the game but led the Jazz with 19 points.

Celtics 113, Pelicans 100

In Boston, Marcus Morris Sr. had a season-high 31 points, making three quick 3-pointers to start the second half, and Jayson Tatum scored 21 to lead a depleted Boston lineup to its sixth straight victory.

With Kyrie Irving, Al Horford, Gordon Hayward and Aaron Baynes all ill or injured, Jaylen Brown scored 19 points and first-round draft choice Robert Williams III had career highs of seven points and 11 rebounds in 25 minutes.

Anthony Davis scored 41 points for New Orleans, which was playing back-to-back games after beating the Pistons in Detroit on Sunday.

Pacers 109, Wizards 101

In Indianapolis, Myles Turner had 26 points, 12 rebounds and five blocks, and Indiana held on for its season-high fourth straight victory.

Bojan Bogdanovic scored 22 points for the Pacers, who nearly blew a 25-point lead. Darren Collison had 10 points and 17 assists.

Bradley Beal scored 30 points and Kelly Oubre Jr. had a season-high 23 for the Wizards, who played without injured All-Star guard John Wall.

Nuggets 105, Grizzlies 99

In Denver, Nikola Jokic had 27 points and 12 rebounds for Denver, and reserve Monte Morris tied a career high with 20 points.

Morris gave the Nuggets the

lead for good on a 3-pointer with 5:22 remaining. Juancho Hernangomez followed with another 3-pointer to give Denver some separation in a tightly contested game that featured 15 lead changes.

Mason Plumlee added 12 points and 10 rebounds in his first start of the season for the Nuggets.

Clippers 123, Suns 119, OT

In Phoenix, Tobias Harris scored 33 points and Patrick Beverley made two free throws with 33.3 seconds left in overtime, sending the Clippers to the road win.

Avery Bradley sealed the Clippers' 17th victory of the season with a pair of free throws with 1.6 seconds left. Danilo Gallinari scored 25 points for Los Angeles.

Deandre Ayton led Phoenix with 20 points and 12 rebounds in his 15th double-double of the season. Fellow rookie Mikal Bridges added a

Champions League: Crunch time for PSG, Napoli and Liverpool

PARIS (AP)—The Anfield roar will be thunderous when Liverpool hosts Napoli, and the crowd will likely be just as loud in Belgrade when Red Star takes on Paris Saint-Germain.

Group C has lived up to its billing as the toughest in the Champions League and any one of the three big teams can still go through—or out—on Tuesday. Napoli leads the group with nine points, one more than PSG. Liverpool

has six points.

To exit at this stage would be a big backward step for Liverpool after reaching last year's final, but much worse for PSG.

Desperate to prove it belongs among Europe's elite, PSG has not reached the semifinals since its lone appearance there in 1995.

After successive eliminations in the round of 16, PSG faces the potential humiliation

of falling at the group stage for the first time since cash-rich Qatari investors QSI took over in 2011.

Things will be tense, too, in Barcelona, where Tottenham likely needs a win to go through in Group B. Tottenham goalkeeper Hugo Lloris will be hoping Lionel Messi has a rare off night, although given Messi's form at the weekend it's unlikely.

Groups A and D have a far

more sedate feel about them with the top two places already decided.

Still, struggling Monaco does have a point to prove against Borussia Dortmund in Group A.

Entertaining semifinals in 2017, Monaco has not won in European competition since beating Dortmund in the second leg of their quarterfinal match that season—a 13-game winless run.



Seahawks on brink of playoffs after win over Vikings



SEATTLE
(AP)—Bobby Wagner leaped over the line of scrimmage, swatted Dan Bailey's field goal attempt and sparked the Seattle Seahawks to two late touchdowns.

Whether or not what Wagner did was entirely legal, he frankly didn't care.

"I'm not stressing about that. I made the play. They called what they called," Wagner said. "There's times in games where things happen all the time. I'm not stressing on it. It was a big block and we'll definitely take it. It was amazing."

Wagner's block midway through the fourth quarter was the catalyst in a 21-7 win over the Minnesota Vikings on Monday night that pushed Seattle to the brink of a playoff berth.

Chris Carson followed the blocked kick with a 2-yard TD run with 2:53 left, and Justin Coleman capped off the Seahawks' fourth straight victory with a 29-yard fumble return for a touchdown 18 seconds later.

What was an ugly and mostly forgettable first three quarters turned into a Seattle party in the fourth as the Seahawks (8-5) moved to the brink of wrapping up a wild-card spot in the NFC. One win in Seattle's final three games—including matchups with lowly San Francisco and Arizona—should be enough to put the Seahawks into the postseason.

"It's really about the defense. I loved the way they played, they played so hard and so spirited," Seattle coach Pete Carroll said. "It was almost poetic after last week's game that Bobby would get to block the field goal and he pulled it off and did it. That was an incredible play."

Minnesota (6-6-1) twice had scoring chances in the fourth quarter when it was still a one-score game but was turned away each time. Minnesota's chances of winning the NFC North took a major hit with its second straight loss, but the Vikings still hold the No. 6 spot in the NFC.



AP
Seattle Seahawks receiver David Moore (83) reaches for the ball as Minnesota Vikings' Holton Hill defends near the end of the first half of an NFL football game, Monday, Dec. 10, 2018, in Seattle. Moore made the catch but was ruled out of bounds.

"Part of it is being better on third downs. We haven't really done a good job there. Part of it is being better in the red zone," Vikings coach Mike Zimmer said. "We had the ball on the 2-yard line and didn't score."

But much of the conversation centered on Wagner's block of Bailey's 47-yard attempt with 5:38 left and whether it was entirely legal. Wagner's jump through a gap in Minnesota's offensive line was fine, but it appeared he used his teammates to gain leverage, which allowed him to come through and block the kick. A flag was initially thrown but was picked up by the officials.

Wagner said he attempted it four times in practice without a problem but acknowledged it could be tough to pull off the play during the fourth quarter of a tight game.

"When I did it in practice I was pretty fresh," Wagner said.

Zimmer said he asked for an explanation of what happened but wasn't given one. He was told he couldn't challenge.

"Quite honestly, I didn't see what happened. I was told what happened," Zimmer said.

Seattle took possession and Russell Wilson immediately scrambled 40 yards deep into Minnesota territory. Five plays later, Carson scored and Seattle finally had a cushion. Two plays after that, Jacob Martin sacked Minnesota's Kirk Cousins and the ball popped to Coleman, who weaved his way for the clinching touchdown.

Cousins threw a 6-yard touchdown pass to Dalvin Cook with 1:10 remaining, but Seattle recovered the on-side kick.

"I feel like all of our losses we, as an offense, we are so slow," Vikings wide receiver Adam Thielen said. "Our defense is keeping us in games. And we're not pulling our side of the bargain."

Wilson had one of the worst passing games of his career, completing 10 of 20 attempts for career-low 72 yards and a baffling interception late in the first half, one of the many mistakes by Seattle that allowed

Minnesota to hang around. But Seattle's ground game was outstanding against one of the better run defenses in the NFL. The Seahawks finished with 214 yards rushing, led by 90 yards from Carson.

Sebastian Janikowski hit field goals of 37 and 35 yards to account for all of Seattle's scoring until the closing minutes.

"If you run it 40-something times, you ought to win. That was pretty good," Carroll said.

Minnesota hung around despite failing to run a play in Seattle territory until there was 4:16 left in the third quarter. Cousins was 20 of 33 for 208 yards, most of that coming late. But he failed to get the Vikings into the end zone from inside the Seattle 5 while trailing 6-0 early in the fourth quarter.

The Vikings had first-and-goal at the Seattle 4 but turned the ball over on downs with 9:06 remaining. Two short runs and an incomplete brought up fourth-and-goal at the 1, and Cousins' pass for Kyle Rudolph was

knocked away by Bradley McDougald. Bailey's field goal was blocked on Minne-

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Mozambique's Alicia Edna Ossumane Mateus, Antigua and Barbuda's Olivia Fuller, North Korea's Mi Song Pak, Palau's Dirngulbai Mischech, East Timor's Imelda Felicyta Ximenes Belo, and Pakistan's Bisma Khan.

As for Batallones, he will swim on Heat 2 of the 100m butterfly event against Nigeria's Philip Adejumo, Cameroon's Ratha Phin, Swaziland's Simanga Dlamini, Kosovo's Dion Kadriu, Tanzania's Collins

SIS

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communication during the second set and that naturally translated to across-the-board improvement. However, despite the Knights' best efforts in the final set, the Geckos' dedication to fundamentally sound plays proved to be too much for the Knights.

When asked how her team rallied from a 0-6 deficit in the second set, Saiki couldn't help but chuckle as she responded.

"We were trying a new playing style. Any time you do something new, the players get nervous," Saiki said. "We went back to the game that we know, and they pulled through."

Saiki added that her team hasn't been playing up to their full potential, as SIS' volleyball program was stalled for over a month after

sota's next drive.

Minnesota fell to 0-6 when allowing its opponents to run for at least 100 yards. The Vikings came in to the week giving up 99 yards per game on the ground, good for seventh-best in the NFL. Seattle had 136 yards rushing in the first half.

Meanwhile, Thielen tied Cris Carter as the fastest Minnesota player to reach 100 receptions in a season, both accomplishing the feat in 13 games. Carter did it in 1994 when he finished the year with 122 catches. Thielen is the first Minnesota receiver to get to 100 catches since Randy Moss in 2003. But Thielen didn't get his first catch until midway through the third quarter. He finished with five catches for 70 yards.

Saliboko, Cape Verde's Troy Pina, Mali's Ousmane Toure, Nepal's Anubhaw Subba, and Bangladesh's Mohammad Mahamudun Nobu Nahid.

In the 200m freestyle qualifying races, Suzuki is entered on Heat 2 and will be facing Seychelles' Dean Hoffman, Palau's Noel Keane, Qatar's Firas Saidi, Puerto Rico's Yeziel Morales Miranda, Bahamas' Kohen Kenwood Kerr, Albania's Spiro Gofa, Uganda's Fadhil Thabit Saleh, Pakistan's Aamir Ahmed Motiwala, and San Marino's Cristian Santi.

Super Typhoon Yutu hammered Saipan.

"The boys have been without much practice because of the storm. It's really hard because most of them don't have power yet, and we don't fully have power at school yet," Saiki said. "With a little more practice, hopefully we will get back to our level because they can play at a much higher level than this."

Meanwhile, games in the league will continue tomorrow with Grace Christian Academy's girls and boys teams hosting SIS 1 and SIS boys at 4:30pm and 3:30pm, respectively. While SIS 1 will be competing at GCA, SIS 2 will be hosting MCS' girls varsity team at 3:30pm. Rounding out the league action for tomorrow is MCS' girls junior varsity team, as it will be hosting Agape Christian School at 3:30pm.

WOO

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Marcus Nield, 6-3, 6-4, to help Pacific Oceania to a 2-0 victory. Tahiti's Manovai Elie handed Pacific Oceania the other triumph after downing Ben Fergusson in the second singles play, 6-3, 6-1.

The shutout win over Tasmania made up for Pacific Oceania's 0-2 loss to New Zealand the same day. Woo was beaten by Thomas Dai in the first singles match, 6-2,

6-2, while Diego Quispe-Kim defeated Tahiti's Meheannu Larson, 6-1, 6-1.

Earlier last Sunday, Woo and company swept Australian Capital Territory, 3-0. Woo drew first blood for Pacific Oceania after dominating Daniel McDonald, 6-2, 6-2, while Elie secured the win after outlasting Connor Watts in the other singles play, 3-6, 6-2, 10-8. In the doubles, Woo teamed up with Larson and they topped the Australian Capital Territory pair, 6-1, 6-4.

Before playing in the ranking round, Woo and his Pacific Oceania teammates were in Group C of the pool play and avoided a shutout when they edged Tasmania last Saturday, 2-1. Woo played in the deciding doubles match with Elie and they swept Jake Almer and Fergusson, 6-3, 6-2.

Queensland topped Group C with an 8-1 record and moved to the championship round along with Queensland (6-2). Pacific Oceania finished the round-robin pool play with a

2-7 mark, while Tasmania had a 1-7 slate, as the two teams missed the medal round.

Northern Territory, South Australia, New South Wales, Western Australia, and Japan are the other championship round qualifiers. Two more playing days are left (including yesterday) before the winner of the Sproule Stephens Cup is decided. South Australia has the upper hand with its 3-0 record, while Queensland is not far behind with its 2-1 mark.

Agape Christian School vs Mt. Carmel School

PHOTOS By ROBY N. PAMINTUAN



A Mt. Carmel School player bends down to hit the ball during their game against Agape Christian School in the boys division of the 2018-2019 Commonwealth Coalition of Private School Association High School Volleyball League last Thursday at the Agape court in Middle Road.



An Agape player serves.



A Mt. Carmel School player waits for the ball to drop, while Agape defenders position themselves in the net.



An Agape player tosses the ball, while his teammates look on.



Mt. Carmel School's Richard Steele gets ready to receive a serve from Agape.



Two Agape blockers attempt to deflect a spike from a Mt. Carmel School player.



An Agape player spikes the ball against two Mt. Carmel School blockers.



Mt. Carmel School's Eric Kiser swings the ball over to Agape.



Cashman says
Yankees interested
in Machado

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

SIS sweeps Mt. Carmel

By ROBY N. PAMINTUAN
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CORRESPONDENT

Saipan International School's A.J. Hudkins bumps the ball during their game against Mt. Carmel School in the CCOP-SA volleyball league yesterday at the MCS grass court in Chalan Kanoa.



good start with several high impact spikes.

While SIS easily dusted off MCS in the first set, the Knights stormed out of the gates in the second, making five consecutive overhand serves, courtesy of team captain Eric Kiser.

Kiser's hot start gave the Knights a 6-0 advantage in the second set, prompting SIS coach Mili Saiki to call a timeout in a bid to regroup her players.

The Knights caught the Geckos off guard, as MCS was noticeably more vocal with its

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The Geckos and Knights duked it out at the latter's home court in Chalan Kanoa, with SIS emerging as the victors after just two sets, 25-14, 25-22.

Mt. Carmel starters struggled communicating with each other throughout the first set and the Geckos capitalized

to ease their way to an 11-point winning margin. SIS' Andy Cho and Junbum Huh took advantage of their time at the server's



line as they made five successful serves apiece during the opening set.

The high-flying Billy Lee also contributed to the Geckos'

Woo stands out for Pacific Oceania

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI's Jimin Woo won three of his first four three matches in the ranking round of the 2018 12U and 14U

Australian Teams Championships/Sproule Stephens Cup.

Woo had a pair of singles win for Pacific Oceania and also prevailed in his lone doubles match in the ranking games



for the boys U14 age group. The Commonwealth junior player had his fourth match last Monday at the Melbourne Park in Victoria and swept Tasmania's

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Jimin Woo is competing for Pacific Oceania in the 2018 14U Australian Teams Championships/Sproule Stephens Cup in Victoria.

Thompson completes first event in world champs

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Jinju Thompson opened the CNMI's campaign in the 14th FINA World Championships, completing the 200m freestyle swim yesterday at the Hangzhou Olympic and International Expo Center in the Zhejiang Province, China.

Thompson was on Heat 2 of the qualifying races and clocked in at 2:27.89 in the short-course (25-meter pool) meet. She finished ahead of Guam's Amanda Joy Poppe, who timed in at 2:36.63, while Malta's Mya Azzopardi topped Heat 2 after checking in at 2:06.77.

Other heat winners in the event were Mongolia's Enkjuslen Batbayar (2:04.84/Heat 1) and Chile's Ines Marin (2:01:16/Heat 3), Mallory Comerford of the U.S. (1:52.52/Heat 4), Russia's Veronika Adrusenko (1:54.11/Heat 5), and Italy's Feredica Pellegrini (1:54.66/Heat 6). Comerford had the fastest time in the preliminaries and was joined in the semifinals by Australia's

Arianne Titmus (1:52.66), Adrusenko, the Netherlands' Femke Heemskerk (1:54.16), Sweden's Michelle Coleman (1:54.22), Pelledrini, China's Jianjiahe Wang (1:54.63), and Czech Republic's Barbora Seemanova (1:54.82).

Meanwhile, Thompson will have her second and last event—the 100m freestyle—today, while her teammates, Nelson Batallones and Len-

nosuke Suzuki, will have their debut in the competition this morning, too.

The lone female member of the team is on Heat 3 of the 100m freestyle qualifying races and will be up against Sudan's Haneen Ibrahim, Guyana's Danielle George, Bahamas' Ariel Weech,

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Jinju Thompson will race in the 100m freestyle event in the 14th FINA World Championships today at the Hangzhou Olympic and International Expo Center in the Zhejiang Province, China.